central VOICE

MAY • JUNE 2007

"Clock in for Equality" May 15

The National Association of GLBT Community Centers joins with Lambda Legal and other organizations and activists nationwide for "Clock in for Equality," the first-ever National Day of Action for Workplace Fairness on May 15.

The purpose is to educate the public about the

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Common Cause Offers Seventy-Four Legislative Reforms

As the Pennsylvania House of Representative's Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform debates methods to improve doing the people's business, Common Cause/PA, the state's leading reform organization, submitted 74 recommendations "that could help the Commission achieve success," says executive director, Barry Kauffman.

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Gay & HIV Abuses Listed in 2006 State Dept Human Rights Report

by Michael Petrelis
SF Correspondent

Every reference in the 2006 annual State Department human rights global survey of either abuses or advancements of respect for the human rights of gays and people with HIV/AIDS has been culled by Rick Rosendall of GLAA, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance based in Washington.

Excerpts on all countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, makes for very depressing reading, but that is minor compared to the almost-daily bashings, second-class treatment, stabbings, social and legal disrespect and even death faced by glbt people across the planet.

Excerpts are available at the link below.

The annual report is vital document local activists in worldwide to generate news and promote gay tolerance and equality. The report also is used to educate politicians regarding myriad problems faced by gays anbd lesbians around the globe.

Excerpts: http://glaa.org/archive/2007/CountryReports2006.shtml

Army Recruiter Becomes Unglued

By Andy Humm
Special to Central Voice

Corey Andrew, a singer/songwriter from Jersey City, got more than he bargained for when he put his resume on careerbuilder.Com. An offer came in from Sergeant Marcia Ramode in late February offering him a range of positions in the U.S. Army. When Andrew expressed interest, but asked if "as an openly gay man" he could now serve, an e-mail war erupted between the two that led to a racist, anti-gay tirade by the recruiter that is now being investigated by the army.

Andrew went public with the e-mail exchange only after reading that General Peter Pace, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said gay people were unfit for service because they are "immoral." Ramode eagerly demonstrated her agreement.

"IF YOU ARE GAY, WE DON'T TAKE YOU. YOU ARE CONSIDERED UNQUALIFIED," she e-mailed Andrew in the first of her e-mail responses, in which she always used all capital letters. Andrew took that as a sign of hostility.

Andrew responded, "I'm stunned that the US army could afford to be so choosey when I see sergeants on my school campus and in the local shopping mall like pedofilic [sic] predators everyday, begging teenagers to enlist." He also told her he loved his country, but that many others welcome out gays in the military.

A singer/songwriter, **Corey Andrew** said he was not up to speed on the military's policy toward openly gay soldiers' but he got a quick education about it in early march.
(Paulo filgueiras/ coreyandrew.Com)

"TAKE YOUR GAY SELF SOMEPLACE ELSE," Ramode wrote back. "WE DO NOT TOLERATE GAY PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN ANY PART OF THE MILITARY."

In response to what Andrew said was her flag-waving, he told Ramode that as an African American he had longer roots in this country than

continued on page 3

***Live, Love, Be Proud* - Headlining this year's PrideFest theme of "Live, Love, Be Proud," is American Idol and Broadway star Miss Frenchie Davis. This year revelers will find more new venues and events: Fri., July 27 starts the weekend with The Harrisburg Men's Chorus' "Voices United," bringing together the area's gay and friendly choruses. Sat., July 28, 10 am, the 2nd Annual PrideFest Unity Parade marches down Harrisburg's Front St., ending at Susquehanna River Park where the Festival, now in its 18th year, offers food, music, entertainment and fun.** *Support Pride by attending* Dine Out with Pride 07, *May 22, 5:30 pm at participating restaurants. See ad inside.*

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FROM ROBERT HOOBLER, EXIT PLATINUM PLUS REALTY, BROKER/OWNER

"Hello Jerry, I want to thank you and Russel for a job well done. You were able to keep me informed of what the buyer needed and what their thoughts and goals were during the home buying process. I thank you for your professionalism and getting all the buyers concerns worked out. The best thing about working with you is when you say things like we had a small issue and you resolved it before the buyer or I even knew about it.
I LOVE IT!! I love working with you! Keep up the great work and thank you for all of your hard work!"

FROM GREG ALLEN, REMAX REALTY PROFFESIONALS, REALTOR

"Jerry will ask the right questions to better understand your goals and prepare you to make your homebuying experience easy. Jerry and Primary Lending will cut the "red tape" out of the situation. He will shop to get you the best legitimate deal, and most of all, Jerry makes your dream a reality!! Thank you Jerry!!"

FROM YOLANDA ROTHENBERGER, CENTURY 21 PISCIONERI, REALTOR

"Russel and Jerry make the process run smoothly every time. When issues arise, they always handle them, and make it look easy. The first time homebuyers that I have dealt with love working with Russel and Jerry because they are always willing to take the time needed to not only explain the process, but also to make sure that the loan they are putting together is the one that best suits each customer's individual needs. Russel and Jerry, thank you for making my job easier and taking excellent care of my customers."

Concert May 5

Central PA Womyn's Chorus Empowers One Song at a Time

By Sharon Muzio
Alta View Wellness Center

"We are here to give the community a voice through the arts," says Giesala Collins, artistic director, Central PA Womyns Chorus Collins says. Collins and board president Cathy Nelson want everyone to know that the chorus is about empowerment for all women.

Currently they are rehearsing for their spring concert, to be held on May 5th at the Harrisburg Academy. Entitled "Land of Our Dreams," the concert is created in collaboration with Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network (PAIRWN). The show portrays the musical journey of several women from other lands, who leave their homes by choice or force, and struggle to assimilate. Ultimately, their future turns out hopeful.

Collins and Nelson see parallels between this struggle and the struggles glbtq people experience. "We have a lot of connections with these women," Collins says.

The chorus has collected money for RAWA, an organization helping Afghan women.

Fall Concert – Common Roads

The fall concert is in collaboration with Common Roads, the region's youth group, and mixes music with expressive dance and poetry. The concert will be a forum for Common Roads teens to showcase their talents.

Working in a collaborative model, chorus membership is open to all women - straight, gay, feminist. Ability to sing is not a prerequisite. "Even women who are not musically savvy are embraced and mentored to assist them in the learning process," Collins says, adding "we like to promote music that empowers women, written by and about women".

Established in 1994, the chorus has evolved into a dynamic blend of harmony and soul. This non-for profit organization currently has a membership of approximately 35 women, representing a cross-cultural mix of deeply committed and talented women.

Its mission, as eloquently stated on their website, is to bring together a diverse group of women, united by the joy of singing, to celebrate and empower women and to affirm a positive image

of lesbians and feminists. The chorus is a member of GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses. Through this affiliation they have participated in several Choral festivals abroad.

The chorus reaches out to the larger community through its music and involvement with various organizations. In the past the chorus has preformed at several Unity and Unitarian services. They have been involved in the Mauntner Project, an organization whose' mission is to assist lesbians with cancer. They have sung at Carnegie Hall as a part of a 300-member chorus, in a historical performance where both "Sing for the Cure" and "When we longer touch" were performed in the same venue.

Info: www.cpwchorus.org

Clock In continued

Lambda Legal's clock in FOR EQUALITY MAY 15 · 2007

harassment and discrimination glbt people and people with HIV often face in the workplace and to activate them to take concrete steps to win protections.

Please go to "Clock in for Equality" for a list of participating organizations and to sign up as an individual, community center, or other group. Over the coming weeks and months, this website will feature more information that will help interested people participate in this campaign for workplace rights.

GLBT people and people with HIV face real discrimination in the workplace. In *Lambda Legal's 2005 Workplace Fairness Survey*, 39 percent of respondents reported experiencing some form of discrimination or harassment in the workplace during the past five years because of their sexual orientation.

But there is still no federal law that expressly forbids workplace discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Only 18 states ban workplace discrimination in the private sector based on sexual orientation, while only eight currently ban discrimination based on gender identity. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act and similar state laws do protect people with HIV from discrimination, but they are often misunderstood or ignored by employers.

On May 15, thousands of people across the country will do something to support workplace fairness. By coordinating organizations and individuals to take action on the same day, the goal is to:

1. ***Educate the public*** about the harassment and discrimination glbt people and those living with HIV face at work
2. ***Increase support*** for efforts to win legal protections for glbt employees
3. ***Activate people*** to fight for the rights of glbt and HIV-affected workers

Workplace fairness is the number one issue for callers to Lambda Legal's Help Desk.

Army Recruiter continued

she ever would, but the military recruiter was unimpressed.

"YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE BEING YOUR WILLPOWER [SIC] WHEREAS MY ROOTS RUN FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN," she wrote. "I HAVE MORE RIGHTS HERE THAN YOU."

Andrew wrote back noting that Native Americans "were very tolerant and accepting of homosexuals believing that the inner spirit is true to itself in it's [sic] nature. They are less tolerant of fools that they are of homosexuals. So take that to your next rain dance and STFU!"

He insisted that he did not mean to demean her ancestry by that sign-off, but things did escalate from there.

"YOU GO BACK TO AFRICA AND DO YOUR GAY VOODOO LIMBO TANGO AND WANGO DANCE AND JUMP AROUND AND PRANCE AND RUN ALL OVER THE PLACE NAKED THERE AND PRACTICING GAY MORALS OVER THERE THAT'S WHERE YOU BELONG," she wrote, concluding, 'YOU DO NOT KNOW IF YOU ARE MALE OR FEMALE. YOU MUST BE A TOTAL IDIOT TO BE SO STUPID TO PRESUME THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT GENDER YOU ARE."

After reading about the servicemembers legal defense network (SLDN) in a story about pace's tantrum, Andrew got the washington-based advocacy group for LGBT soldiers involved.

C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN, in a written release, said, "Sergeant Ramode's comments were insulting and inflammatory to all troops now serving in our armed forces." The group is demanding ramode's dismissal.

Douglas smith, a public affairs officer for the military's recruiting command, told SLDN in an e-mail that the matter had been referred to "the appropriate commander for review." He added, "the command expects its recruiters to conduct themselves in a professional manner in all dealings with potential applicants and members of the public," but would not comment further.

Osburn said his group was "encouraged" that the case was being taken "seriously."

Andrew acknowledged that while he has always tried to be out and proud about being gay, he was not up to date on the persecution of gays by the military. After researching the don't ask, don't tell policy, he said, "it angered me. The policy is not working."

As for Ramode, Andrew said, "she needs to be removed from the military completely." He said he had not experienced that kind of disrespect "since being called a sissy on the playground" as a kid in suburban central New Jersey.

Common Cause continued

Kauffman's three principle objectives are:

1. Ensuring chamber rules offer equality and inclusiveness for all legislators
2. Guaranteeing that every lawmaker always has the opportunity to make *informed decisions*
3. Getting complete and accurate information about the legislature and its actions to the public in a timely and easily accessible manner.

Kauffman says "the convergence of problems, opportunities, and expectations that we see today in Pennsylvania government happens perhaps once in a century."

If lawmakers expect to restore the trust and respect for the legislature that is essential for the success of a representative democracy, Kauffman says they must act deliberatively, decisively and without delay; demonstrating a genuine commitment to the *public interest.* "They must put an end to the wanton self-serving circus we have witnessed over recent years."

Contact: ccpa@dejazzd.com

PA Gay Civil Rights Bill Introduced

With 21 co-sponsors, Republican State Senator Pat Browne, 16th District, Lehigh Valley, introduced the LGBT Civil Rights Bill.

Senate Bill 761 would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Twenty other Senators joined Senator Browne by co-sponsoring the legislation. In total the bill has 3 Republican sponsors and 18 Democratic sponsors.

"The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance has made passage of an LGBT Civil Rights Bill our legislative priority for 2007 and 2008," stated Steve Black, Political Director of the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA).

"PA-GALA looks forward to working closely with Senator Browne and his staff, as well as, Stacey Sobel from Equality Advocates Pennsylvania; Larry Frankel from the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania; and, Stephen Glassman Chair of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to pass this legislation" added Black.

Currently 13 municipalities in Pennsylvania prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations - including the Counties of Philadelphia and Erie, the Cities of Allentown, Easton, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Scranton and York; the Boroughs of Lansdowne, New Hope & West Chester. State College prohibits discrimination in area of housing only.

"A statewide law is needed to protect all lgbt Pennsylvanians from discrimination," stated Black.

Senators co-sponsoring the bill include:

Pat Browne - R - 16th District, Prime Sponsor
Charles McIlhinney - R - 10th District
Edwin "Ted" Erickson - R - 26th District
Vincent Fumo - D - 1st District
Tina Tartaglione - D - 2nd District
Shirley Kitchen - D - 3rd District
Leanna Washington - D - 4th District
Mike Stack - D - 5th District
Vincent Hughes - D - 7th District
Anthony Williams - D - 8th District
Michael O'Pake - D - 11th District
Connie Williams - D - 17th District
Lisa Boscola - D - 18th District
Andrew Dinniman - D - 19th District
Robert Mellow - D - 22nd District
John Wozniak - D - 35th District
Jim Ferlo - D - 38th District
Wayne Fontana - D - 42nd District
Jay Costa - D - 43rd District
Barry Stout - D - 46th District
Gerald LaValle - D - 47th District

Armed Forces Day, May 19 • Memorial Day, May 28 • Flag Day, June 14

Letters to the Editor

Central VOICE Draws Business

Since becoming a drop-off business for your newspaper, people have been dropping by to pick up copies.

Michael Clarke, Owner
Fairey Godmother's, Vintage Clothing & Accessories, Mechanicsburg

Melts in Their Mouth

During last winter's icy snow storm I saw that the PA Senate held two hearings trying to figure out PennDOT's poor clean up effort. I thought they should have held the hearings on the steps of the capitol. All that hot air would have quickly melted the ice.

Shane

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Central to your life.

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MEMBER
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Hate Crime Help Needed

Late February in Detroit, 72-year-old Andrew Anthos was riding a city bus when he was asked by a passenger if he was gay. The passenger then followed Anthos off the bus and attacked him with a metal pipe. Anthos died from his injuries, and according to media reports, police are continuing the investigation without any solid leads.

Under current federal hate crimes law, federal authorities have no jurisdiction to assist in this investigation, even if local authorities request assistance.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is requesting community involvement by contacting your local representatives about this senseless crime. Your help is invaluable. Please urge your local representative to co-sponsor the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act to ensure a safer environment against misguided predators who would harm us for no other reason than sexual and gender orientation.

•Congressional District PA-17
Representative Tim Holden
1721 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102-2391
•Congressional District PA-19
Representative Todd R. Platts
2209 East Market Street
York, PA 17402

Dan Kane

Catholic Logic?

A while back I read in a daily newspaper where a catholic priest, The Very Rev. William M. Weary, said he found the hateful, homophobic views of Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers "illogical." Weary said that since we can't reason with the illogical, he wouldn't try. This is interesting because I find Weary's teachings about my homosexuality just as illogical. God made me the way I am, but Weary's religious leader, the Pope, has defined me as "intrinsically evil" (http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0502666.htm). He did so on May 31, 1999, and other times, when he chastised School Sister of Notre Dame Jeannine Gramick and Salvatorian Father Robert Nugent, barring them from pastoral ministry to homosexuals, saying they advanced "doctrinally unacceptable" positions "regarding the intrinsic evil of homosexual acts and the objective disorder of the homosexual inclination."

So let me try to logically understand Weary: God made me intrinsically evil in my very essence, so therefore, God makes junk? Am I an imperfect result of his six day mission to create the universe? I thought God was all knowing? Weary may answer: We love the sinner, hate the sin. No doubt, I am a sinner, but sexually expressing my love to another consenting, adult man is not one of my sins, in and of itself. I find Weary's position patronizing – and illogical.

Jake

Promoting Diversity

Thanks for all you do to promote acceptance and diversity in central Pennsylvania!

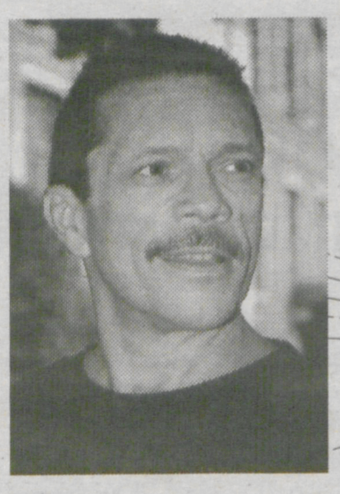
Rev. Paul M. Fuller, Ph.D.
College Chaplain

PFLAG Thank You

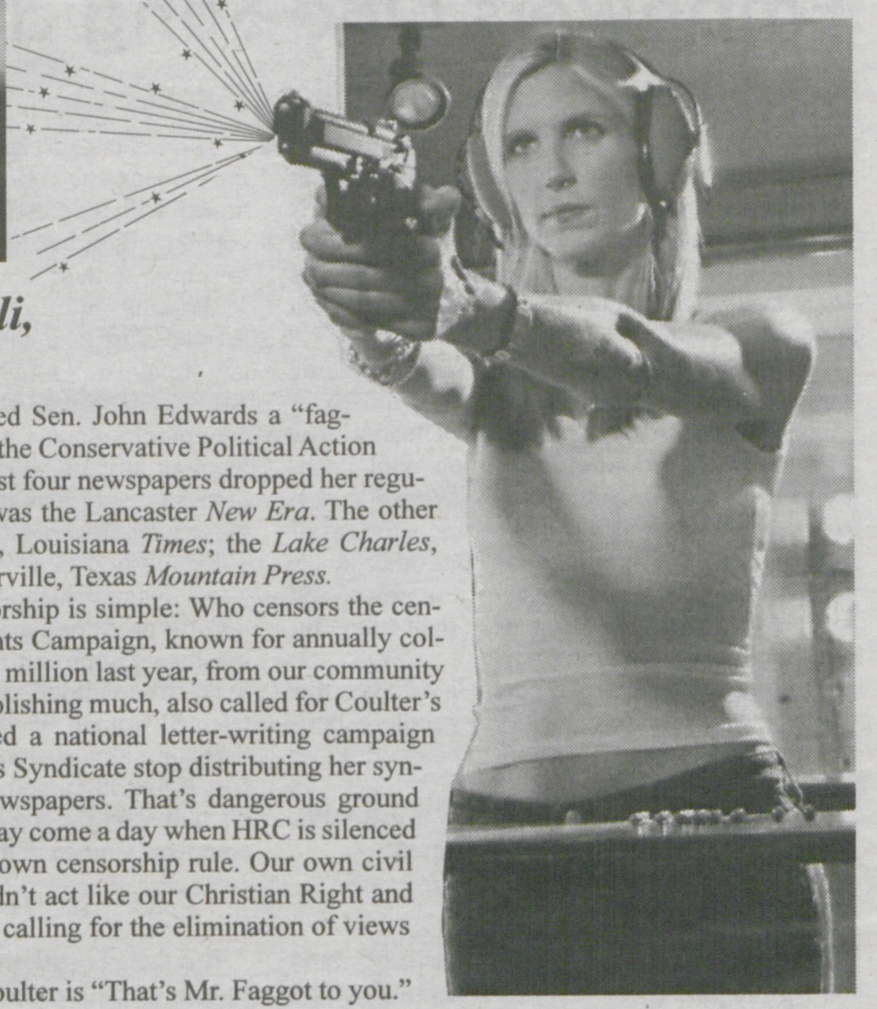
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) thanks your newspaper very much for doing an article on our support group. We had a fun time sharing our journeys and mission with writer Sharon Muzio, of Alta View Wellness Center. Teen suicide is ranked very high amongst gay teens and we hope our efforts will prevent even one unnecessary death. You are doing a great job with *Central Voice*. I always look forward to its arrival. Keep up the good work.

PFLAG meets third Monday of each month 7-9 PM, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, 300 East Simpson Street. Information, www.pflag-centralpa.org*; 717-728-8800*

Connie J. Sutton, Board Member
PFLAG of Central PA



Coulter Clash with Lancaster *New Era*



By Frank Pizzoli, Publisher

When Ann Coulter called Sen. John Edwards a "faggot" during her remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), at least four newspapers dropped her regular column. One of them was the Lancaster *New Era*. The other three were the Shreveport, Louisiana *Times*; the *Lake Charles*, Louisiana *Press*; the Sevierville, Texas *Mountain Press*.

The problem with censorship is simple: Who censors the censor? Our own Human Rights Campaign, known for annually collecting millions, about $32 million last year, from our community but not for actually accomplishing much, also called for Coulter's censorship. They organized a national letter-writing campaign demanding Universal Press Syndicate stop distributing her syndicated column to 100 newspapers. That's dangerous ground that always shifts. There may come a day when HRC is silenced under application of their own censorship rule. Our own civil rights organizations shouldn't act like our Christian Right and Republican adversaries by calling for the elimination of views with which they disagree.

All we have to say to Coulter is "That's Mr. Faggot to you."

VOICE box

Are you in favor of Universal Health Care? A single-payer system or a variety of programs covering everyone?

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

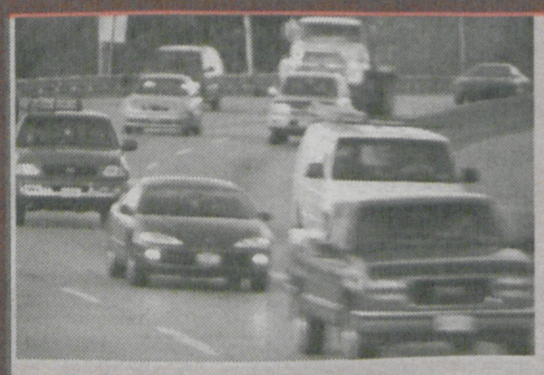
VOICE Box Answers from Last Issue

Do you favor Gov. Ed Rendell's plan to turn over the administration of the PA Turnpike to private sector, possibly foreign, management companies?

1. Why not outsource management of the highways for a decent fee but let taxpayers reap the benefits too? Why sell out for a big lump of cash now and then nothing later?

2. Imagine the "perks" our General Assembly will give themselves with a huge highway windfall!

Commuter Services of South Central PA



Commuter Services promotes options other than commuting alone in our area. Their latest report says that commuters in its confidential database last year saved enough gasoline to fill eight tanker trucks. They also took 1.5 million miles of trips off our regional roadways because they used alternatives from transit to telecommuting. The survey revealed that hundreds of people are looking for carpool matches and other help. Some said their employer was an impediment to commuting options. Information: 1-866-579-RIDE or www.PaCommuterServices.com.

Health Care & State Budgets on Crack?

Stephen Colbert on Bush Plan

President Bush proposes tax cuts to make health insurance more affordable for the uninsured. Stephen Colbert explains Bush's plan: Its so simple. Most people who can't afford health insurance also are too poor to owe taxes. But if you give them a deduction from the taxes they don't owe, they can use the money they're not getting back from what they haven't given to buy the health care they can't afford.

Meanwhile, in Montana

Gov. Brian Schweitzer proposes cutting taxes and boosting spending by 26% over two years and a $100 million "meth jail."

Vermont

Gov. Jim Douglas proposed a loan of $40 million to create the nation's first "e-state," where free wireless broadband is free to everyone.

Arizona

The only real rub between their Democratic governor and the Republican legislature is whether to borrow or pay cash for a $500 million highway improvement plan.

Massachusetts

Last year the legislature approved $1.56 billion for a universal health care plan.

Destroying Marriage?

John Waters plays "the groom reaper" in TIL DEATH DO US PART, a new series from CourtTV looking at scandalous murderous marriages. Waters plays host to these true-life stories about brides and grooms who drive each other insane, to the point of murder. Here we go again, destroying marriage! http://www.courttv.com/onair/shows/til_death_do_us_part/index.html

"Care Crisis" Burdens Mostly Women

By Marlene Lang

It doesn't happen often, but every now and then I read something that stops me in my tracks.

No, it was not the account of Brad and Angelina's secret wedding. It was an article by historian and journalist Ruth Rosen on what she calls "the care crisis."

She's talking about child care and elder care and the other kinds of people-care that still fall largely on women: one woman at a time.

It's crushing us, and we need some big policy changes to help lift this endemic burden that falls out on all of us.

Rosen compares the care crisis to what Betty Friedan dubbed "the problem that has no name," drawing a parallel to the times when housewives everywhere thought they were the only one feeling depressed.

Are you, reader, crumbling under the burden of caring for family?

Womens' mags and talk shows dish out hefty portions of advice on how to manage it all, ad nauseum. We all think if we read one more article, we'll get our act together and the madness will subside. This doesn't happen, and we feel guilty. And depressed.

Rosen asserts that it is no longer every individual woman's individual problem when every woman (and in many cases, every man) struggles to manage the care of children and the job that provides a necessary second income – or meager single income.

She decided to name the problem: the care crisis.

Most of us know by experience and observation what Roth points out: Single women suffer the most, as do the poor, and the more money you have for child care and other home care services, the better off you are.

But the fallout from the burden of care is so widespread that she says it needs to be addressed in public policy, ASAP.

Is it that urgent? Must we just accept that "this is life?"

Rosen says no, what we need are "new policies that will restructure the workplace and reorganize family life."

Ooooo. She treads on sacred ground.

Except that the latest stats say American children are not – by far – the healthiest in the industrialized world. There is a problem here. Maybe they simply aren't being cared for properly.

It's not practical to tell all the moms to stay at home. And the same administration that has been advocating that quaint arrangement has been chopping away at programs to aid poor mothers, single parents, and caretakers of the elderly.

The numbers vary but are staggering as to how many women and children in our fine nation live in poverty and without health care coverage. Millions and millions.

I ask this question frequently, but it never seems to go away: Who should take care of those who can't take care of themselves? Not every woman has a husband, not every child has a father. And even when they do, it does not make the crisis go away. Working parents sharing the burden are still strapped, wired and stressed to the breaking point.

Quoting Rosen, because I like what she says: "The right wins the rhetorical battle by stressing 'values' and faith.' In the name of the family they campaign to ban gay marriage and save unborn children. Yet they refuse to embrace public policies that could actually help working families regain stability and balance."

Yes, Rosen is a (cover your ears) feminist, and yes, she thinks this is part of the unfinished revolution. And the care crisis she describes is "gigantic but ignored."

She is absolutely right. We can make the changes needed to help us all care for children and the elderly more effectively, or we can let things continue to cave, one woman at a time.

I'd say more, but she already said it so well, I will direct interested readers to find the full article at www.thenation.com.

Originally published the Daily Southtown.

Washington Post Columnist Looks at High Costs in U.S. Health Care System

The reason that the U.S. health care system has proven to be "so resistant to change is that lots of powerful interests do very nicely with things just the way they are," *Washington Post* columnist Steven Pearlstein writes in an opinion piece, adding, "Although doctors, hospitals, insurers and drug companies say they, too, want things to change, any comprehensive reform would reduce their incomes and their profits." Pearlstein cites a study "released without fanfare last month" by McKinsey Global Institute that "aimed to determine why the United States spends nearly double the average of other industrialized countries on health care -- with no better, and in some cases inferior, medical outcomes." The study found that compared with other nations, excess costs in the U.S. health care system "works out to 3.6% of the nation's entire economic output, or $1,645 per person, every year," Pearlstein writes. The study identified higher spending in the U.S. on payments for physician services, hospital stays and prescription drugs, as well as the cost of administering the private portions of the U.S. health insurance system, according to Pearlstein. He writes that "any effort to reduce these excess costs faces determined opposition from well-financed lobbies, which is why many reformers prefer to focus on the goal of extending coverage to the 47 million Americans who don't have health insurance." Pearlstein concludes, "But doing the one without the other, the McKinsey researchers warn, would be economic folly. Offering universal coverage without reining in costs would add another $77 billion each year in unnecessary and unproductive health spending" (Pearlstein, *Washington Post*, 2/14).

Agents of Change Seek Social Justice

Agents of Change (AOC) is a group of US young people from all walks of life seeking to create change. They aspire to create non-aligned and/or bipartisan political organizations that will work with local communities to strengthen existing social justice programs. The group also promotes academic research as a way to advance the interests of marginalized people. "We hope to transform our economic and political systems into a more equitable society," AOC representative Angela says.

AOC's mission is three fold. "We recruit and place volunteers in community outreach organizations," Angela explains. To accomplish this goal, agents through an online forum coordinate and place individuals where their skills are best used.

"We also work with universities on research and development that articulates broad social issues and may lead to change," she says. AOC also sponsors conferences and events to educate communities on social justice issues

Contact: www.theaoc.us; on myspace.com or angela@theaoc.us

There's No Place Like Home

PA Homecare Providers Urge Expansion of In-Home Services

PHA Pennsylvania Homecare Association

There is no place like home. That is the response of 90 percent of Americans who want to remain in their home as they age. Pennsylvania's homecare community commends Governor Rendell for his aggressive plan to keep seniors at home for as long as possible and his comprehensive approach for reigning in health care costs, under the Prescription for Pennsylvania.

"People need to have a choice as to where they are cared for," said Vicki Hoak, executive director of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association. "Today that is not always the case. Too often seniors can't receive the care and support that they need to remain at home and as a result the only choice is a nursing home. Pennsylvania must expand in-home services and assist family caregivers so that their loved ones can remain independent and living in the community.

"Gov. Rendell's goal of having a balanced long-term care system by 2012 – meaning people will be able to get the care they need, when they need it and where they want it – is achievable if the necessary policies to support this action are in place and barriers are eliminated."

Pennsylvania's home care community also looks forward to working closely with the Rendell Administration and the General Assembly in advancing his Prescription for Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's home health care providers are national leaders in reducing avoidable hospitalizations, a key goal under the Prescription.

"Today, hundreds of patients are benefiting from homecare technologies such as remote vital signs monitoring, medication dispensers, activity sensors and emergency response devices, said Hoak. "With these technological advancements, homecare providers have proven that they can keep people at home. In-home providers are primed to play a vital role in helping to reduce avoidable hospitalizations."

The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is headquartered just outside of Harrisburg and represents more than 300 agencies that deliver care and support directly in the homes of more than a million elderly and disabled citizens in the state of Pennsylvania. To learn more about in-home care, visit the PHA website at www.pahomecare.org.

Contact: Eric Kiehl, Public Affairs Director, PA Homecare Association; (800) 382-1211 ext. 26; ekiehl@pahomecare.org

Phila's "Gayborhood" Up-and-Coming Destination

As shown by its high-profile ad campaign, "Get Your History Straight and Your Nightlife Gay," and resulting coverage on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, CNN and other national media, Philadelphia has officially "come out" as a gay-friendly travel destination.

Arts, Culture and History

History buffs, art aficionados and culture mavens, be warned: the Philadelphia region is a cultural paradise. Famous for its preeminent role in the founding of the country, the city is the ultimate history classroom. Within the newly redeveloped Independence National Historical Park stands **Independence Hall**, where the *Declaration of Independence* was signed and the *U.S. Constitution* was ratified. Independence Hall was also the site of some of the nation's first gay rights demonstrations, held here for four years, beginning in 1965. Just across the street is the **Liberty Bell Center**, which provides a more contemplative experience than ever before for this venerable symbol of freedom. Anchoring the northern end of Independence Mall is the **National Constitution Center**, a major museum celebrating the *U.S. Constitution*, including its impact on the rights of gays and lesbians through interactive exhibits.

For art lovers, there's no better place to begin your journey than the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, where an impressive array of Renaissance, American, Impressionist and modern art live. Prepare to be wowed by the Museum's blockbuster holdings and exhibits. Nearby, you'll find the **Rodin Museum**. Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the Museum is home to the largest collection of Rodin sculptures outside of France. The **Philadelphia Art Alliance** on Rittenhouse Square frequently showcases gay and contemporary artists, while the **Rosenbach Museum and Library** houses the original manuscripts of James Joyce's *Ulysses* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, as well as letters between lesbian writer Mercedes de Acosta and Hollywood legend Greta Garbo.

Extend your cultural experience into the night along the Avenue of the Arts, where exciting performances range from opera to world music and Broadway to local theater at **The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, **Academy of Music**, **Wilma Theater**, **Prince Music Theater** and other venues.

Just outside the city, the art institutions may be smaller in size than their urban counterparts – but the caliber of the work on display here is equally as stunning. The **Barnes Foundation** in Merion showcases an unparalleled collection of post-Impressionist works, while its arboretum is home to many rare and mature plants not usually found in this region. The **Brandywine River Museum** in scenic Chadds Ford specializes in works by the Wyeth family and the **James A. Michener Museum**, with facilities in Doylestown and New Hope, focuses on artists from Bucks County and Pennsylvania.

Restaurants

While in town, don't pass up a soft pretzel with mustard or one of those famous cheesesteaks, but do realize that there is a vast world of culinary options beyond Philly's famous delicacies. In Washington Square West, affectionately known as Wash West, **Mixto** serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner Latino-style; **More Than Just Ice Cream** lives up to its name with yummy burgers, salads and sandwiches; **Effie's** dishes out traditional Greek favorites; **Lolita** is a cozy, lesbian-owned, bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) establishment with a nuevo Mexican focus; and **Valanni** tempts the taste buds with creative Mediterranean fare. Also well liked is the **Astral Plane**, a favorite for 30 years with its mismatched china and vintage photos. The star of the city's dining scene is restaurateur Stephen Starr, and you won't want to leave town without experiencing at least one of his 13 trendy eateries. Options include the Mexican **El Vez**; the comfort food of **Jones**; the pan Asian **Buddakan**; the **Continental**, a martini bar with two Center City locations; and **Washington Square**, complete with a happening *al fresco* scene.

Bars, Clubs and Cafes

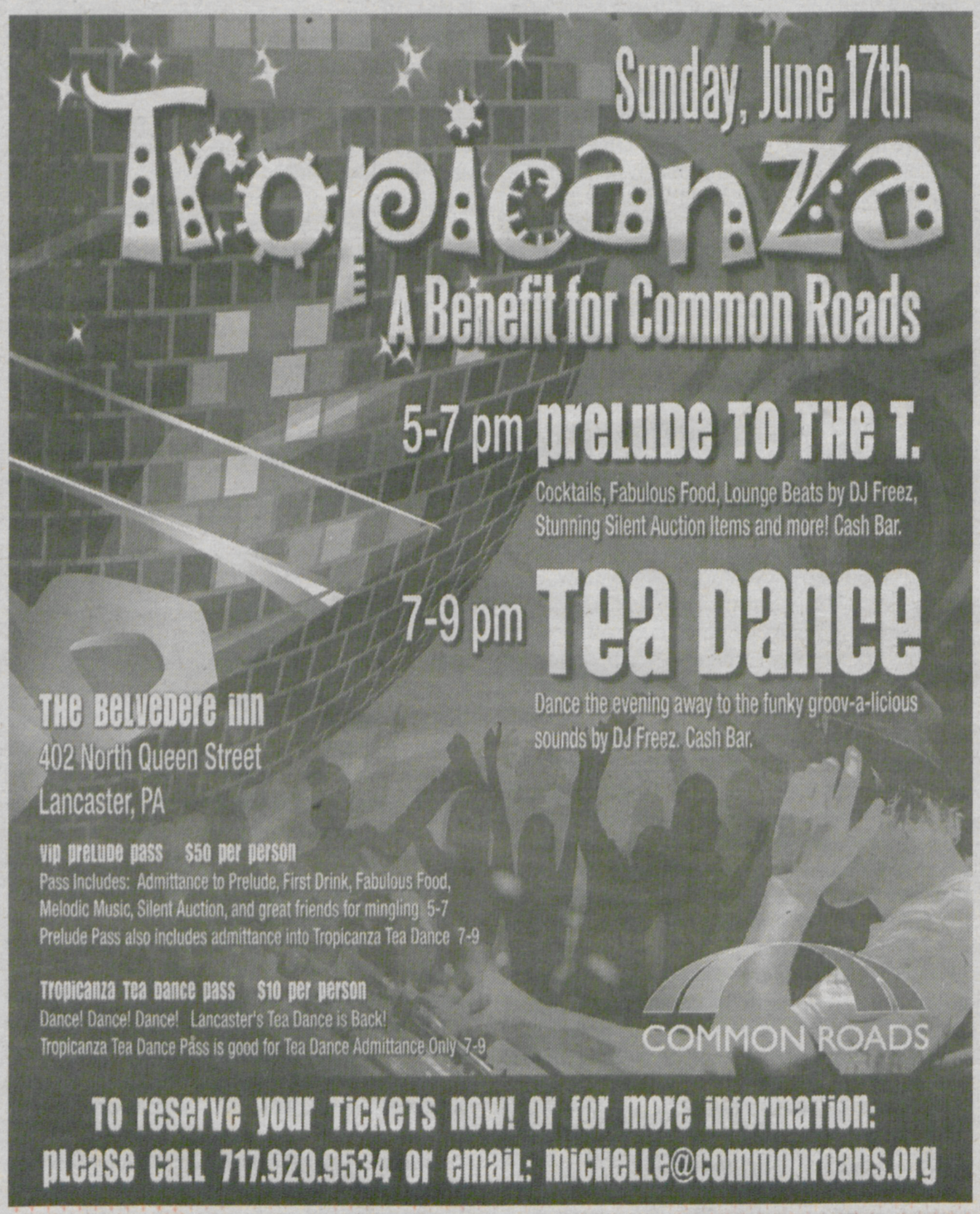
Most of the city's gay and lesbian bars, cafes and clubs are conveniently located in the "gayborhood," located from 10th to Broad Streets and from Chestnut to Pine Streets. Best known are the always-packed **Woody's**, which has several bars and a pulsating dance floor; **Shampoo**, a sprawling complex that is gay on Friday nights with drag queens, go-go boys and the latest club music; **Pure**, an after-hours club where the dancing continues well after 2 a.m.; **The Bike Stop**, a land of leather and its fans; and **Sisters**, a bar-restaurant-dance club mostly for women. Also not to be missed are **Bump**, a luxe-lounge and restaurant, and **The Mean Bean**, a bustling coffee bar with outdoor seating.

Shops

Wash West fittingly offers a discriminating "Queer Eye" for furniture and home goods, from traditional outlets on Antique Row to a new generation of stores selling more contemporary items along the same stretch. Also in the neighborhood is the 30-year-old **Giovanni's Room**, one of the nation's most successful gay, lesbian and feminist bookstores; and B3 (Blocks Below Broad), a shopping district on 13th Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets for the latest menswear, men's and women's shoes, clothing and accessories, housewares and mouth-watering gelato. Best of all, there's no sales tax on clothing in Pennsylvania.

More great shopping awaits along Rittenhouse Row, a tony shopping district on Walnut Street, from Broad to 20th Streets; in Old City, home to dozens of galleries and boutiques; and on funky South Street, where trendy clothing shops and piercing and tattoo parlors rule.

On the outskirts of Philadelphia is the **Franklin Mills Mall**, a massive outlet mall; and the **King of Prussia Mall**, complete with eight department stores and more than 400 upscale specialty shops.



Gambling Bling-Bling

Unless you live in Nevada, it's illegal in the US to bet on sports. Our readers from the Anthracite Coal Region just laughed out loud!

America has always had a love-hate relationship with gambling.

The Jamestown Settlement was funded through a lottery. Lotteries were legal in all 13 colonies. By the end of the 19th Century, they'd become illegal. By the 1960s, lotteries were back, when almost "anything went" in most segments of society.

During the 19th Century, our farmer citizens saw a boom in card and horse gambling. Eventually, powerful Puritanical groups clamped down. Not that these values stopped other-people's-moralist William Bennett from gambling $1.5 million in a single year during the time in his life when he published "The Book of Virtues."

Those who make the rules often don't live by them.

For example, Rev. Jerry Falwell, always has something to say about the vices and excesses of others – except his. Have you seen the windbag lately? He must weigh, well, let's not be as unkind as he is to others. Obviously gluttony isn't on his list of sins. It's only on our list.

By the start of the 20th Century, Progressive politicians (we have those today in the person of Pat Buchanan) decried betting as the "source

of misery and vice" and shut down nearly every race track in America. Two decades later, desperate for revenue, states re-opened the tracks and found citizen taxpayers flocked to their gates.

Today, 48 states have some form of gambling. Thirty-eight states have lotteries which in 2005 raked in $16 billion in revenue. The US has 900 casinos, which make $5 billion in revenue annually. In South Dakota, taxes on gambling account for about 15% of that state's revenue.

In 2004, the Dublin-based Tradesport called 33 out of 34 Senate races correctly. They also correctly called all 50 states in the Electoral College spread.

Talks to Central VOICE

Christine Gorman Leaves *Time*

After a long and celerated career as a medical writer, Time magazine's Christine Gorman is moving on to other projects.

"I'm going to take a break, take some classes, talk to a lot of people and figure out next steps. *Time* has agreed to make me a contributor," she tells Central VOICE.

"My goal is to get more directly involved in global health issues - particularly access to basic primary health care around the world. Stop being just a witness and start being more of an advocate," she says.

Blockbuster Philadelphia Events for May and June

May 2007

Strawberries of all sorts, live entertainment and pie-eating contests add to the festivities at the annual *Strawberry Festival* at **Peddler's Village**. May 5-6, 2007. (215) 794-4000, www.peddlersvillage.com

Spanning 10 miles from Olney to South Philadelphia, the 28th annual *Broad Street Run* raises money for the American Cancer Society. May 6, 2007. (215) 683-3594, www.broadstreetrun.com

Dad Vail Regatta, the largest collegiate regatta in the world, takes place on the *Schuylkill River*. May 11-12, 2007. (215) 542-1443, www.dadvail.org

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the country's oldest and largest art museum and school, previews the works of third- and fourth-year art students during the *106th Annual Student Exhibition*. May 12-June 3, 2007. (215) 972-7600, www.pafa.org

The *Devon Horse Show and Country Fair*, the country's oldest and largest event of its kind, features contests, exhibitions and an old-fashioned fair at the **Devon Show Grounds**. May 24-June 2, 2007. (610) 964-0550, www.thedevonhorseshow.com

Jam on the River, Memorial Day's biggest party, brings the best of rock and blues music to **Penn's Landing**. May 26-27, 2007. (215) 922-2FUN, www.jamontheriver.com

Outstanding furniture, glass, metalware, ceramics, folk art, quilts and other fine antiques from across the nation are featured at the 36th annual *Brandywine River Museum Antiques Show*. May 26-28, 2007. (610) 388-2700, www.brandywinemuseum.org

DanceBoom! takes to the **Wilma Theater** stage with performances by local artists and companies. May 31-June 16, 2007. (215) 546-STAGE, www.wilmatheater.org

June 2007

Cyclists compete against each other and climb the steep Manayunk "wall" during the annual *Philadelphia International Championship*. June 10, 2007. www.procyclingtour.com

The *Odunde Afrikan-American Street Festival* celebrates the Yoruba New Year, beginning with a spiritual procession to the Schuylkill River and ending with a lively street fair. June 10, 2007. (215) 732-8510

Taking place at various venues throughout the city, the 10-day *First Person Festival of Memoir and Documentary Art* celebrates its fourth year as the only event in the nation dedicated to art based on real-life experiences. The event features more than 25 performances, screenings and interactive workshops by local and nationally known artists. June 10-19, 2007. (267) 402-2055, www.firstpersonfestival.org

The Rosenbach Museum & Library commemorates *Bloomsday*, the day on which novel hero, Leopold Bloom, made his "odyssey" through Dublin, with a week-long festival of programs. June 16, 2007. (215) 732-1600, www.rosenbach.org

Venues throughout the city host new plays, musicals and revues by or about members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community during the fifth annual *Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival*. June 2007. (215) 627-6483, www.philagaylesbiantheatrefest.org

Celebrating the nation's birthday, *Sunoco Welcome America*! is a week-long party with free events for all ages throughout the city. June-July 2007. (215) 683-2200, www.americasbirthday.com

SPECIAL EVENT:

LGBT Pride Parade and Festival

This year's annual *LGBT Pride Parade and Festival* takes place during International Gay Pride Month. June 10, 2007. (215) 875-9288, www.phillypride.org

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Philly Pride Parade and Festival
June 10th

Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival
June 14th – 30th

Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
July 12th – 24th

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Rainbow Market Report

Rainbow Market Report					
Company	Symbol	Year High	Year Low	03/30/07 Close	Fortune 500
Aetna Inc	AET	51.17	30.94	43.79	x
American Airlines	AMR	41.00	18.78	30.42	x
Apple Computer Inc.	AAPL	97.80	50.16	92.91	x
AT&T Corp.	T	39.86	24.72	39.43	x
Borders Group Inc.	BGP	25.49	16.20	20.42	x
Daimler Chrysler Corp.	DCX	83.21	45.98	81.81	
Dell Inc.	DELL	30.60	18.95	23.21	x
Estee Lauder Companies	EL	50.12	34.81	48.85	x
Ford Motor Co.	F	9.48	6.06	7.89	x
Gap Inc.	GPS	21.39	15.91	17.21	x
General Mills Inc.	GIS	59.23	48.56	58.52	x
Intel Corp.	INTC	22.50	16.75	19.13	x
International Business Machines Corp.	IBM	100.90	72.73	94.26	x
Intuit Inc.	INTU	35.98	25.50	27.36	
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	69.41	57.32	60.26	x
Kraft Foods Inc.	KFT	36.67	28.97	31.66	
MetLife	MET	66.25	48.00	63.12	x
Microsoft Corp.	MSFT	31.48	21.46	27.87	x
Molson Coors Brewing Company	TAP	95.00	63.43	94.62	x
New York Times Co.	NYT	26.90	21.54	23.51	
Nike Inc.	NKE	110.10	75.52	106.26	x
PepsiCo Inc.	PEP	65.99	56.51	63.56	x
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	SHLD	189.97	130.34	180.16	x
Sprint Corp.	S	26.89	15.92	18.96	x
Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.	TM	138.00	94.52	128.16	
Viacom Inc.	VIA	42.78	32.42	41.06	x
Walgreens Co.	WAG	51.60	39.55	45.89	x
Xerox Corp.	XRX	18.32	13.16	16.89	x

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The Hidden "Escape Hatch" in Your 401K

By Ronald R. Wetzel
Financial Advisor
Smith Barney

Frustrated with the limited investment choices available in your employer's retirement plan? Don't fret. You may not have to wait until retirement to unlock the investment potential of those retirement plan assets. That's right. Your employer's retirement plan may contain a little known provision that may allow you to roll over these assets into an IRA Rollover while you're still employed and without incurring any immediate tax liability.

Here's how it works. Normally, you're eligible to take a distribution from your employer's retirement plan after a triggering event, such as separation from service or extended disability. Some employer retirement plans, however, offer employees the ability to take a distribution upon reaching a minimum age or meeting a length of service requirement while they're still employed. This is called an in-service, non-hardship withdrawal distribution election.

If you qualify for this distribution, you may elect to roll over all or a portion of these retirement assets, while continuing to participate in your employer's plan without penalty. But first, you need to determine if your employer's plan allows these distributions and under what circumstances.

Most often, only profit sharing and 401(k) plans allow for in-service, non-hardship withdrawal distributions. They are not permitted in defined benefit or cash balance plans. The only way to find out for sure is to ask your employer for a copy of the plan's Summary Plan Description (SPD). If they cannot supply a SPD, then you can call the 800# on your monthly 401(k) statement and ask if you can take an in-service, non-hardship withdrawal distribution election.

The SPD will tell you if your employer's plan allows this option and under what circumstances. In some cases, the plan requires you to be age 59 ½ or older. You should also confirm that by electing an in-service, non-hardship withdrawal distribution election, you would not forfeit your ability to continue to participate in your employer's plan.

Why should you go to all this trouble? The answer in a nutshell is flexibility. Used properly, an in-service, non-hardship withdrawal distribution election can provide additional investment and tax-planning alternatives not commonly available in a employer retirement plan.

Case in point; investment options inside an IRA rollover opened with a full-service financial firm can be unlimited. You can select from mutual funds, individual stocks and bonds, CDs or perhaps a combination of various other types of investment vehicles. In addition, if your gross income is less than $100,000, you may wish to convert your retirement plan balance to a Roth IRA. However, only by rolling your retirement plan balance to a traditional IRA can you later convert to a Roth IRA.

Also, if a portion of your retirement plan balance consists of company stock, rolling over these assets into an IRA will allow you to use limit orders when you sell shares. A limit order will authorize the automatic sale of a specified number of shares should the stock trade at a predetermined price. You determine and set the sale price limit.

Moreover, while a surviving spouse can always roll over an employer's retirement plan into an IRA, the same is not true for other beneficiaries such as children or grandchildren. By transferring employer plan assets to an IRA rollover, you gain the ability for these beneficiaries to receive payments from an inherited IRA over their lifetimes. This "Stretch IRA" option is usually not permitted in employer retirement plans.

If you elect an in-service, non-hardship withdrawal distribution election be sure you roll the assets into an IRA. Otherwise, distributions not rolled to an IRA are subject to a mandatory 20% federal withholding tax, federal and state income taxes and a 10% premature distribution penalty if you're under age 59 ½.

In-service, non-hardship withdrawal distribution elections may not be suitable for everyone. If you currently have an outstanding loan, a distribution may cause the loan to be deemed a taxable distribution. Also, qualified retirement plans always provide creditor protection that, unlike an IRA, is dependent upon your state law. Finally, your employer plan may offer a specific investment option that is not available elsewhere.

Ronald Wetzel is a Financial Advisor with Smith Barney, Harrisburg, PA. Contact: 717-780-1789.

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continued on page 18

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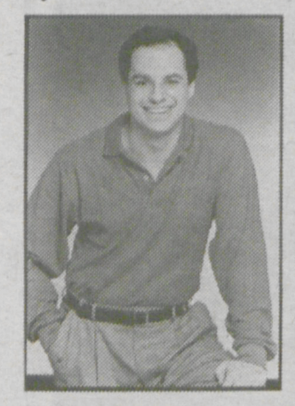
Spencer & Kate, Not So Straight

by John DiLeo



If, like me, you've never believed that the off-screen relationship between Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy was the love affair of the twentieth century, then you'll want to read *Kate,* William J. Mann's probing new Hepburn biography.

Mann reveals the Hollywood mythmaking—much of it generated by Kate herself in her later years—that went into romanticizing a great companionship. Mann's clear-eyed perspective—he admires Kate but he's no fawning fan—convincingly captures a mercurial subject in all her contradictions: her Yankee fortitude and recurring insecurity, the self-absorption and absence of introspection, all propelling her to attain her goal of immortality.

Tracy and Hepburn met on *Woman of the Year* (1942), their first of nine onscreen pairings. Legend always had it that Tracy's devout Catholicism prevented his divorcing his wife for Kate. His alcoholism, though, was more often attributed to grief over his son's deafness. Kate was perceived as a back-street lover, quietly caring for him through his binges and depressions. But maybe Kate had no interest in marrying him, and maybe Tracy had another reason to drink.

Hepburn Gal-pal?

"She just didn't think of herself as a girl," her brother Bob is quoted as saying, referring to herself as "Jimmy" in her youth. Her enduring personal attachments, with the exception of Tracy, were with women. When she first went to Hollywood, she brought her lover Laura Harding. Harding lived with Kate until the star sent her back to New York once a wave of conservatism swept through the industry in the mid 1930s, threatening any star who might be labeled "deviant." As Kate disentangled herself from gal-pal rumors, Randolph Scott and Cary Grant stopped being "roommates."

Tracy Special Friends?

Kate had a history of being drawn to troubled, complex men of immense talent and sensitivity, often married and alcoholic. "It seemed her life calling was to boost the egos of fragile men," Mann states. What these men—not only Tracy but macho director John Ford—also shared was sexual ambiguity. This revelation adds new layers to Tracy's poignant performance as a gay man in love with straight Clark Gable in *Test Pilot* (1938).

Mann makes a compelling case for Tracy's self-destructive behavior deriving from his inability to accept his homosexual longings, quoting several survivors of those years who attest to his struggle. Tracy had a gay male companion in the late 1930s, followed by gay encounters of a more casual variety during the years with Kate, a time in which he lived in a cottage on gay director George Cukor's estate.

It's fiction that Tracy and Hepburn wanted to marry or that they were inseparable. They never lived together, even when she nursed him through his final years. Their 25-year bond ended with Tracy's 1967 death, thus launching Kate's mission to idealize their unconventional attachment until she finally believed it herself.

We're so used to Kate's iconic status that it's easy to forget how unpopular she was through much of the 1930s. Things she came to be revered for—trouser-wearing independence, gender-defying equality—were things that made her subversive to many, rendering her box-office poison by 1938. Her most popular role had been as tomboy Jo in *Little Women* (1933), but she overestimated her appeal when she played a woman posing as a man in the flop *Sylvia Scarlett* (1936).

Contrary to her image, Kate was consumed with being and staying famous, endlessly reinventing herself. *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) and the comedies with Tracy made her bigger than ever because in them her characters were brought down a few pegs, taming her for mainstream America. When her liberal politics endangered her career in the late 1940s, she saved herself with *State of the Union,* a smash-hit piece of patriotic hokum.

Mann rightly identifies *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (1962) as containing her greatest performance, made when most of her peers were facing the indignities of cheesy horror movies. The final Tracy-Hepburn film, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967), made her cool with the counterculture, with Tracy's death increasing the public's sympathetic affection for her. The women's movement embraced her, even though she didn't embrace it back. *On Golden Pond* (1981) lionized her yet again, winning her an unprecedented fourth Oscar. Her eternal fame long secured, she died in 2003 at 96.

Mann, author of two excellent books about gay Hollywood—*Wisecracker,* a bio of gay silent star William Haines, and *Behind the Screen,* a look at the backstage gay personnel who helped make the Golden Age glitter—adds another valuable tome to his credit. Kate will always be "yar" and "cherce," and our learning the truth behind her myth only makes her more fascinating.

John DiLeo's most recent book is *100 Great Film Performances You Should Remember But Probably Don't.*

DJ Barry Reviews Musical Match-Ups

Fergie

Fergie hits it again with the song "Glamorous". Once the lead singer for the group Black Eyed Peas and now enjoying a soaring career as a solo artist. Her last single "Fergalicious" taught you how to spell a made up word. This time around she is spelling once again. The song "Glamorous" has a good flowing beat with Fergie spelling out the word in the chorus. Some chanting and a repeating hand clapping measure added in just the right parts makes this a fun song.

Gwen Stefani & Rapper Akon

Gwen Stefani and Rapper Akon have a hit on their hands with "The Sweet Escape". This is the current single in a run of chart toppers for Gwen. This song features Gwen and Akon trading lines back and forth. Throw in a good chorus and a catchy beat and you have another hit single.

Hellogoodbye

"Here (In Your Arms)" by the group Hellogoodbye is one of my new favorite songs. This group comes to us direct from Huntington Beach. Not many of the songs stand out on their full length CD accept for "Here". This song is your basic catchy pop song with male vocals. Romping guitars, nice synth work, and a raging drum beat round out the song. This song stands out because it has such a different sound.

Beyonce & Shakira

The perfectly matched Beyonce and Shakira release the single "Beautiful Liar". The single comes off the full length Beyonce CD "B' Day". Beyonce adds her soulful edge on this song with a little Latino flavor from Shakria. The slow tempo song is ok but the club remix by Maurice Joshua or the Freemasons is much better.

Pink

The one name wonder Pink is still tearing up the club and radio music scene with "U + Ur Hand". Yes that is how it is spelled. You may have heard it on the radio but for a good dance club remix look for the Bimbo Jones Mix. The Jones remix brings a smooth and progressive vibe to the song with some added bass beats. This song tends to be a favorite of many because of what she explains the title means when she sings it.

Justin Timberlake

Justin Timberlake makes an appearance once again with the single "What Goes Around... Comes Around". How do you take a sappy song and make it good? You can't. Some songs aren't meant to be dance hits. This song might have had some life on the radio but not in the clubs. Take a break Justin.

Improved Timberlake?

So how do you take Justin Timberlake and make him better? Team him up with Nelly Furtado and producer Timberland. The one name producer wonder Timberland has helped push many Hip Hop and R&B artists to success. The single "Give It To Me" appears on Timberland's full length CD "Shock Value". The song it's self has a slow R&B beat with Nelly Furtado lending her salutary vocals. Justin Timberlake adds backing and backbone to the song. Not a bad one for any of them to have on their resume.

Madonna Producer?

Speaking of producer Timberland. Word has it he will be collaborating with Madonna. Her next CD due out in 2008 when she turns 50 years old.

Spirituality

Making Intimacy Meaningful

By Terry Drew Karanen

I gave up being a practicing homosexual years ago since I felt I had pretty much gotten the hang of what went where, with whom and when. Even though it seems at times that our lives revolve around sex, most of us aren't all that comfortable with it. Honoring sex and erotic energy is not easy for most people.

Americans are particularly uneasy about sexual matters. We fear sex, yet crave it. We desire intimacy, but then fear it might lead to sex, while perhaps secretly hoping it will. Mainstream religion has pretty much confined sex to the bedroom and then only for legally married, adult couples. That leaves the majority of us wanting something we are told we cannot have and should not want…or at least should delay our want for a time more appropriate.

Meaningful male-to-male interaction is difficult for most men. While our culture encourages little girls to nurture and touch, little boys are taught to stand alone, to have life handled. We are not expected to need anyone, particularly another man. We are told there is room at the top for only one, so we willingly compete, mistrust and perhaps even mislead other men who are seen as our competitors. For straight men, this means it is next to impossible to express any inner feelings to another man. For gay and bi-sexual men, we find ourselves attracted to the very persons we are not supposed to trust.

A test conducted at the University of Georgia using 64 young white males, who identified as totally straight. All viewed both a heterosexual sex video and a homosexual sex video. The results showed that 80% of the "self-confessed" straight white males showed an immediate result of penile erection while watch the gay porn. Upon reporting the findings to the group almost all of the 80% denied any arousal and some even walked out of the study without finishing the interview. The doctor concluded that most homophobia and gay-related violence is a result of striking out at others for what the perpetrators most disliked in themselves. These men were not necessarily gay or even bisexual, but the mere thought that another man could arouse them was more than most of them could handle.

The sexual revolution of the 60s and 70s opened wide the doors for sexual expression, free love and unbridled passions. Today, over a quarter of a century later, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people alike are considering monogamy. Where as in the 70s a "date" was the two hours preceding sex, today gay men are going out for coffee, for dinner, or to a movie, without the expectation of each other being "dessert".

Gay men are beginning to mature as a culture. Lesbians have had this down for years, so I leave them out of that comment not to ignore them but to acknowledge them. Gay men are starting to see deeper into each other than just a quick fling or walking masturbation sleeve. Part of this is due to the evolving consciousness of humanity in general. Another factor is that for the past century men, gay or straight, have not had a clear idea of who they were, what was expected of them or what they wanted. Men born into Western culture have no rite of passage from boyhood to manhood as was common in centuries past. We are starting to scratch the surface of what it means to be men—not just gay men, but biologically male. We have begun to let each other know what we want and what we want to give.

The majority of people have the ability (though not necessarily the inclination) to be aroused by either sex. This seems to be more accepted in Western culture for women than men, which is part of the issue with which men must deal. What is more important than figuring out with whom to go to bed is the issue of expressing our inner thoughts, our hopes, our fears and our deepest desires. As glbt people, particularly gay men, in this period of history we have the unique opportunity to assist in a global healing process. As we become more comfortable in expressing intimacy with one another, instead of just having sex, we will regain our place in society as the link between the male and female energies. Erotic energy is the core energy of all life. Learning to use erotic energy for more than sex will transform our lives…and our planet.

Terry Drew Karanen is an ordained, interfaith minister holding a Doctor of Divinity degree from the American Institute of Holistic Theology.

MEN'S HEALTH

Six Pack Takes Sensible Approach

By Mike Pawlikowski, LA Fitness, Camp Hill

Whether you're a "Skinny Vinny" or a "Fatty Patty," only proper diet and varieties of exercises transform you into "Mr. Super Six Pack," says LA Fitness instructor Mike Pawlikowski. Consume most your carbohydrates early in the day, breakfast and lunch An active body burns calories all day. Lighten up evening meals. Your body is slowing down and carbs are more likely to be stored as fat. If you eat before a workout, allow time for digestion before crunching an abdominal routine. Cramping and muscle pro-lapse, when abdominal muscles grow disproportionately to each other, can occur. Use of the entire trunk and torso is needed in order to achieve six-pack status. Always use your oblique muscles along the ribcage and your back to build a powerful midsection. Six packs require that you change your ab routine daily allowing for continued shock and awe to those muscles. Plan a daily, 15-minute ab regimen of five different exercises with light to medium resistance. Exercises should incorporate all parts of the abs, oblique, and lower back muscles. Always stretch both before and after exercising.

Lesbian Notions:
Our Love Is Expensive

by Libby Post

So it's tax time - as in time to file. This is our yearly financial reminder of just how inconsequential same-sex relationships are.

If you're in Massachusetts or any of the states that recognize civil unions to the fullest extent of the law, you and your partner (if you're in a relationship) can file your state taxes jointly. But none of us can file jointly with the IRS.

Right off the bat, if you use an accountant, that means you pay more for your tax prep. When our accountant does our taxes, he has to figure everything - charitable deductions, mortgage interest payments, and other legal deductions - twice to see who needs the deductions more to get a bigger refund.

Refunds aside, when you take a look at how we pay taxes as individuals versus how married heterosexuals pay taxes, we definitely lose out. We end up paying far more than our fair share - all because we can't file jointly.

It makes you wonder if Leviticus, the culture wars, or the downfall of civilization really have nothing to do with the fight against marriage equality, but instead it all comes down to economics. Our community is a tax-generating cash cow, and the government knows it.

A 2005 study by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Love Makes a Family of Connecticut (released before that state's civil unions law came into effect) shows that same-sex couples pay more in taxes and receive less in benefits because we cannot legally marry.

The study, entitled "Economic Benefits of Marriage Under Federal and Connecticut Law," specifically looked at the financial reality of lesbian and gay couples who live in Connecticut - what their state and federal liabilities and benefits were at that point in time, and what they would be if same-sex unions were legally recognized.

Why focus on this small New England state? Connecticut was just about to pass its civil unions law, and the study was used to make sure that the law provided the estimated 588 rights and privileges given to the state's married couples. The study was successful in getting the point across. Lesbian and gay couples in Connecticut were afforded those rights and privileges - unlike their counterparts in Vermont and actual married lesbian and gay couples in Massachusetts, who had to sue to be treated equally across the board.

The benefits most of our parents took for granted - filing jointly, receiving Social Security death and survivor benefits, getting workers' compensation, being able to gift one another money - are not available to us in our partnerships.

The study found that the economic disadvantages of our inability to marry are substantial. One of the couples profiled, Stephen Rinaldi and Andre Kreft, together earned approximately $75,000 a year. Both in their early 50s, they paid $2,689 more in state and federal income tax because of marriage inequality. Stephen works for the state. Before the Connecticut civil unions law, if he died as a result of a work injury, Andre would have received nothing. Now, with the law, Andre would receive a little over $34,000 per year in workers' compensation benefits. Hopefully, he'll never need to collect.

The study also estimates the aggregate lifetime economic liability we incur because we can't marry. For Stephen and Andre, it amounted to $212,176 - and that's just for income taxes and Social Security spousal and survivor benefits (the ones we don't have access to).

There is one little bright spot, however. With the recent passage of the federal Pension Protection Act, Stephen's holdings in a 401(k) retirement plan or an individual IRA could be left to Andre without him incurring a tremendous tax burden.

The act allows a retirement plan owner to name a nonspouse as a beneficiary, and that person would be treated as a legal spouse for tax purposes. In the past, we would have had to withdraw the amount as a lump sum and face immediate tax penalties. Now we get the money, but without the tax burden.

The bill also allows individuals who list their same-sex partner or other nonspouse as the beneficiary of their 401(k) plan to tap into their retirement funds if the beneficiary has certain medical or financial emergencies. Previously, only legal spouses or dependents could do this.

This change is just a drop in the proverbial bucket of inequality that lesbians and gays suffer at the hands of the IRS, the federal government, and most of the states. It's time to kick over that bucket and empty out the dirty water.

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

By Kristen Richards
Outreach Director, Trans-Central

Transgender Group Thrives

After 17 successful years, Renaissance, central Pennsylvania's transgender support organization, thrives. Friendships and long-term bonds have formed inside organization stretching beyond monthly meetings.

During all of our journeys, we've needed a caring shoulder to lean on, a brain to pick, or a safe space to express ourselves, without judgment and ridicule. And one of life's precious few constants - the first Saturday, each month, at 8 P.M., the doors to Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) remain open to serve the transgender community.

We've occasionally had our differences (as most thriving organizations do), disagreeing to a degree. But those lively discussions displayed a common thread - a passion for the organization, the community, the family. However, success brings change. Renaissance Transgender Education Association (LSV Chapter) is now Trans-Central (Transgender Education Association of Central PA).

Trans-Central is committed to providing the best gender education and caring support for transgender individuals, their families, friends and allies. We are also committed to maintaining outreach and gender education to businesses, universities, various organizations and government agencies. Remain with us during our name "transition" to help us reach new and exciting goals. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Recent Highlights

•Marched in the region's first gay pride parade and regularly participates in Harrisburg's PrideFest

•Advertises in the region's only glbt-oriented newspaper, Central VOICE.

•Writes a regular column on gender issues for Central VOICE

•Maintains an interactive web site and list serve information service for the transgender community

•Hosted speaking engagements at Elizabethtown College, York College, Common Roads LGBTQ Youth Support Organization, Kutztown University, HAAC, UUCV of Boiling Springs PA and Open Stage Forum, Harrisburg PA

•Held a Transgender 101 panel discussion for the Women's Circle of Central PA

•In-depth interview on transgender issues - CBS - TV 21 News

•Hosts annual Spring Gala at Bube's Brewery and Holiday Dinner/Sleep over at Canna Country Inn & B&B

•Provides informative, monthly newsletter including a calendar of community events

•Partnered with the Womyn's Chorus of Central PA at a recent Farm Show event, raising money for both organizations

•Educated Harrisburg City Police on transgender awareness, needs and issues

•Offered makeup, skin care, laser, jewelry and glbt book workshops at monthly meetings

Information: Contact Managing Director, Jeanine Ruhsam, waterfilly@yahoo.com or Outreach Director, Kristen Richards, ock1127@aol.com. List serve information: TransCentralPA@yahoogroups.com. The new web site is under construction.

GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY

Volunteers Needed

Lancaster Arts and Entertainment Festival 2007

Rainbow Rose Community

Last summer RainbowNetCreations co-owners, Charles Nichols and Barry Russell, discussed the possibility of sponsoring a GLBT Art Festival drawing talent from Lancaster, York and surrounding counties.

Following meetings with Katie Kennedy, Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray's special events coordinator, and Gray the date of June 23, 2007 was designated Lancaster's 1st Annual Arts and Entertainment Festival. The festival will be held at Binn's Park/Lancaster Square in the 100 Block of North Queen Street, Lancaster.

The planning group is comprised of Erica Milner, Mayra Muniz, Shane Stoner, Michael Fry, Kevin Robinson, Jeff Roane, Sara Sweger, Fran Lowe, Barbara Kyne, Mimi Shapiro, Greg Carey, Mark Stoner, Barry Russell.

At the present time, nonprofit 501(c) 3 status is pending for Rainbow Rose Community. It is hoped that RRC and this year's festival will be able to partner with an established non-profit.

Currently, the new group needs individuals to staff committees: administration, site management, fiscal responsibility, concessions, artists, entertainment, publicity, public relations, web site, and volunteers.

According to the group's information, Rainbow Rose Community is a service organization of individuals, groups, businesses and organizations dedicated to building safe, inclusive communities in Lancaster, York and surrounding counties. The new organization exists to strengthen the glbt community by building a network comprising all segments of the community.

Members include individuals, schools, colleges, universities, businesses, religious organizations, foundations, financial organizations.

Contact: Rainbow Rose Community and/or Lancaster Arts and Entertainment Festival 2007 717.380.1071; rainbownetcreations@yahoo.com

Restored Paintings of Ira J. Deen Shown

The Garden Gallery, Carlisle, recently featured a collection of six original, newly restored oil paintings by Harrisburg artist Ira J. Deen. The paintings span a period of Mr. Deen's life from 1915 to 1948.

As an artist, Deen was a visual historian of the Susquehanna Valley. His works often reflect his plein air painting along the Susquehanna River and at Fort Hunter, where he painted with the 7 Lively Artists when he was much older. He also often painted near Wildwood. Although he painted an occasional urban scene, Deen's passion was nature and landscape in all its simple beauty and diverse mood.

Born Dec. 9, 1874, in Mount Union, Deen moved to Harrisburg with his family when he was 16. He became a painter for the Harrisburg Traction Co., painting the city's first electric trolleys at the old car barn at North Third and Delaware Streets.

From 1903 to 1938, Deen worked in the Pennsylvania Railroad paint shops, working on the

continued on page 15

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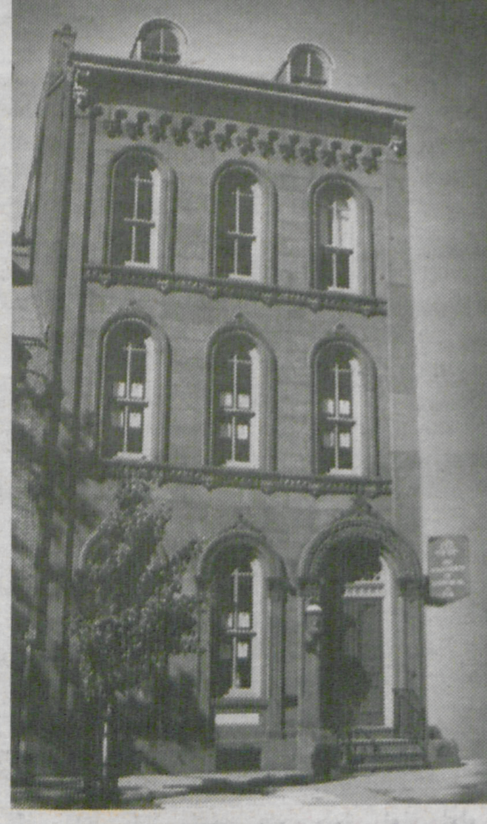
Art Association of Harrisburg Events

79th Annual Juried Exhibition - Opening reception May 12, 6-9 PM, with hors d'ouevres from Red Door, music by Homage Acadien. Show runs thru June 14. Wachovia Foundation corporate sponsor.

ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG



One Night Stand Exhibition - Sun., June 3, 4-7 PM, Appalachian Brewing Company, 50 N. Cameron St. $10 cover charge.

Art School Annual Exhibition - opening reception Friday, June 23, 5-8 PM, music by Jonathan Frazier. Show runs thru July 19. PSEA corporate sponsor.

Call 717-236-1432 for more information.www.artassocofhbg.com
21 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Restored Paintings continued

line's private cars. Deen and his wife, Mary Virginia, lived in old Estherton. His studio and gallery were on the second floor. The back yard extended to North Third Street, providing and unobstructed view to the Susquehanna River.

Deen was founder and treasurer of the Harrisburg Sketch Club, forerunner of the old Harrisburg Art Association Studio. He died June 7, 1952.

Painting entitled *"Crooked Hill"*

Artist Jill Peckelun Juried into Plein Air

Local artist Jill Peckelun was recently juried into the Wayne Art Center's Plein Air Festival slated for April. Artists paint near and about Wayne for several days then exhibit their plein air work in the Art Center. "I like to paint my *en plein air* paintings *alla prima* in oil paint," Peckelun says. "That means that I wander around in all kinds of weather, searching until suddenly I am enchanted with what I see in a particular place." She then paints the scene right there in one phase.

"Although it's true that plein air painting may be considered "extreme sport" given all the bugs and heat, the cold and wind, and mad chipmunks and friendly pit bulls, there is nothing like standing in the vista that I am about to paint," Peckelun says. As a painter, she has won numerous international, national, multi-state and regional awards in juried fine art exhibitions. She is a signature member of the International Acrylic Painters Association and lives in Allentown, PA.

Information: www.jillpeckelun.com

Entitled *"Lookout #1"*– illustrating a view at the Trexler Game Preserve, north of Allentown.

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"The Galleries of Mechanicsburg"

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May 19th - *"Gallery Saturday"*
Open Wine and Cheese
Artist Reception. 7pm to 10pm
Featured artist 1st Floor:
Carol Blanken Howe
Featured artist 2nd Floor:
Daryl Duckworth

June 16th - *"Gallery Saturday"*
Open Wine and Cheese
Artist Reception. 7pm to 10pm
Featured artist 1st Floor:
Bonnie Lipomi
Featured artist 2nd Floor:
The Seven Lively Artists

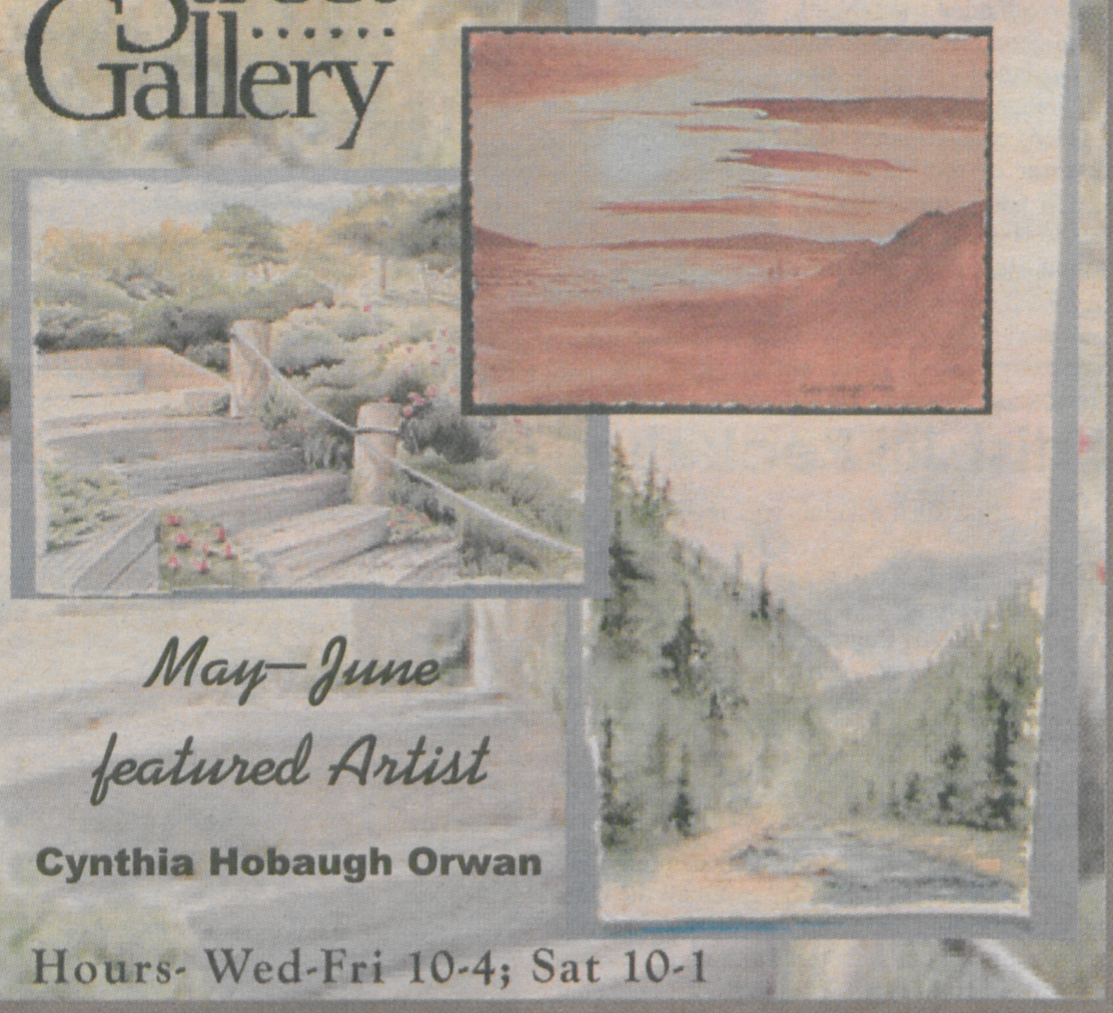
Gallerie 13

13 East Main Street
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055
(717) 591-6940 www.Gallerie13.com

May 4th - *"1st Friday"*
Open Wine and Cheese
Artist Reception. 6pm to 9pm
Featured artists: The Mechanicsburg Senior High School Senior Recognition Group Show

June 1st - *"1st Friday"*
Open Wine and Cheese
Artist Reception. 6pm to 9pm
Featured artists: Linda Buckwalter and "Spring Arts" Group Show (all artists are local or regional)

3rd Street Gallery



May–June
featured Artist
Cynthia Hobaugh Orwan

Hours- Wed-Fri 10-4; Sat 10-1

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Art Association of Harrisburg Offers 3 Days of Exposure

By Bryan Molloy
Gallery Assistant, ONSE Coordinator

As a special "thank you" to supporters and participants of the new One Night Stand Exhibits (ONSE) series, the Art Association of Harrisburg is offering a weekend long display opportunity for any artist willing, free of entry charge, (normally $40/show entry fee).

AAH will take 1/3 commission as regular on all sales, but the entire garden and building, including the sidewalk area is made available for tables and easels and display stands to display and sell artwork and prints. All artwork is acceptable and participants will take advantage of the massive Memorial Day ARTSFEST crowds, as they are milling about the tents on the riverfront.

Since the AAH building is opposite the main ARTSFEST exhibition area near Market Street and enjoys easy access to City Island, this is a great opportunity to garner exposure.

Artists are responsible for prompt set-up at 10 AM, May 26, 12 PM, May 27, and 10 AM., May 28. AAH can provide several tables and a few easels, so bring what you can. As with any One Night Stand Exhibit, there are no restrictions of size, medium, or content.

Artists are also responsible for the safety of their work during public hours and AAH is not responsible for any liability. Please take advantage of this opportunity this coming Memorial Day weekend during ARTSFEST. First come, first serve.

Artist Bio: Martin Velez

Martin Velez was born in The Bronx and got his art education in the streets of New York City. His first passion was comic book art, but he was quickly thrown into graffiti because it's provocative and rebellious. After several years of painting graffiti his focus turned to painting on canvas and exploring various art mediums and techniques.

Modern art from the 1980s had a big influence on Velez, as he witnessed first hand the art of NYC's young minds. Although Velez has been an artist almost all his life, it has only been during the last 15 years that he's had the freedom to pursue his dream of creating art full time.

Painting titled *"The Progressive Last Dinner."* by **Martin Velez-Majectic** Blends, shown at 2nd Floor Gallery, Mechanicsburg.

Velez's art style has no boundaries. His paintings are evidence that he has versatility in almost any medium. He enjoys working most with oils, but often has a watercolor or acrylic painting nearby to finish. Although Velez has no particular style when he paints, his passion for comic book art and graffiti are still evident in his style of painting and in the way he uses his colors. He believes that art is ever changing, much like life itself, and that people need to adapt constantly if they are to survive in the art world.

Artist Statement: "I like to think of my art as free style. Free to paint what I love without the confinements of being labeled, categorized or committed to any particular style. It is within the lack of boundaries that I achieve my goals as an artist. I believe that in reaching these goals I am able to branch out and adapt to inspirational surroundings with the freedom and creation of art, without artistic segregation.

Contact: 3 Patton Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055; 766-9879; majesticart@verizon.net; www.majesticblends.com

Lambda Literary Awards Announces Finalists

Finalists for the 19th annual Lambda Literary Awards were recently announced by the Lambda Literary Foundation. Awards are presented in 25 categories. Finalists are chosen by a jury of judges who come from all walks of literary life: journalists, authors, booksellers, librarians, playwrights, illustrators. In all, 87 judges participated in the selection of finalists from the pool of 381 books that were nominated.

Finalists are listed alphabetically by author. The publisher appears in parenthesis.

Nominees for ANTHOLOGY
Confessions of the Other Mother, edited by Harlyn Aizley (Beacon)
From Boys to Men, edited by Ted Gideonse & Rob Williams (Carroll & Graf)
Love, Bourbon Street, edited by Greg Herren & Paul J. Willis (Alyson)
Charmed Lives, edited by Toby Johnson & Steve Berman (Lethe Press)
No Margins: Writing Canadian Fiction in Lesbian, edited by Catherine Lake & Nairne Holtz (Insomniac)

Nominees for ARTS & CULTURE
Fun Home by Alison Bechdel (Houghton Mifflin)
Cinemachismo by Sergio de la Mora (University of Texas Press)
Sex Objects by Jennifer Doyle (University of Minnesota Press)
GAY L.A. by Lillian Faderman & Stuart Timmons (Basic Books)
Blood Beats: Vol 1 by Ernest Hardy (Redbone Press)

Nominees for BISEXUAL
Eros by Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio (Harrington Park Press)
Affirmative Psychotherapy with Bisexual Women & Bisexual Men by Ronald C. Fox (Harrington Park Press)
Three Sides to Every Story by Clarence Nero (Harlem Moon/Doubleday)
Bi Guys, edited by Ron Jackson Suresha (Harrington Park Press)
Bi Men, edited by Ron Jackson Suresha & Pete Chvany (Harrington Park Press)
The Bisexual's Guide to the Universe, Michael Szymanski & Nicole Kristal (Alyson)

Nominees for CHILDRENS/YOUNG ADULT
The Manny Files by Christian Burch (Simon & Schuster)
Full Spectrum, edited by David Levithan & Billy Merrell (Random House Children's Books)
Between Mom & Jo by Julie Anne Peters (Little Brown)
Tale of Two Summers by Brian Sloan (Simon & Schuster)
Erik & Isabelle's Junior Year at Foresthill High by Kim Wallace (Foglight Press)

Nominees for DRAMA/THEATER
Questa by Victor Bumbalo (Broadway Publishing Inc.)
Confessions of a Mormon Boy by Stephen Fales (Alyson)
1001 Beds by Tim Miller (University of Wisconsin)

Nominees for HUMOR
Queen of the Oddballs by Hilary Carlip (HarperCollins)
My Lucky Star by Joe Keenan (Little Brown)
Roy & Al by Ralf Konig (Arsenal Pulp Press)

Nominees for LGBT NONFICTION
Hello, Cruel World by Kate Bornstein (Seven Stories)
GAY L.A. by Lillian Faderman & Stuart Timmons (Basic Books)
Different Daughters by Marcia Gallo (Carroll & Graf)
Behind the Mask of the Mattachine by James T. Sears (Harrington Park Press)
Unspeakable Love by Brian Whitaker (University of California)

Nominees for LGBT STUDIES
Every Inch A Man: Phallic Possession, etc. by Carellin Brooks (UBC Press)
Gay Power: An American Revolution by David Eisenbach (Carroll & Graf)
Their Own Receive Them Not by Horace Griffin (Pilgrim Press)
Crip Theory by Robert McRuer (NYU Press)
Beautiful Bottom, Beautiful Shame by Kathryn Stockton (Duke University Press)

Nominees for SCI-FI/FANTASY/HORROR
Carnival by Elizabeth Bear (Bantam Spectra)
Mordred, Bastard Son by Douglas Clegg (Alyson)
A Strong and Sudden Thaw by R.W. Day (Iris Print)
Izzy and Eve by Neal Drinnan (Green Candy Press)
Spin Control by Chris Moriarty (Bantam Spectra)

Nominees for SPIRITUALITY
Sex & the Sacred by Daniel Helminiak (Harrington Park Press)
The After-Death Room by Michael McColly (Soft Skull Press)
Spirited edited by Lisa Moore & G. Winston James (Redbone Press)
The Singing of Swans by Mary Saracino (Pearlsong Press)
Mobius Trip by Giti Thadani (Spinifex Press)

Nominees for TRANSGENDER
Transgender Rights edited Paisley Currah, Richard M. Juang, and Shannon Price Minter (University of Minnesota Press)
Drag King Dreams by Leslie Feinberg (Carroll & Graf)
Supervillainz by Alicia E. Goranson (Suspect Thoughts)
The Transgender Studies Reader edited by Susan Stryker & Chris Whittle (Routledge)
The Testosterone Files by Max Wolf Valerio (Seal Press)

Nominees for LESBIAN FICTION
Punk Like Me by JD Glass (Bold Strokes)
Slipstream by Leslie Larson (Crown)
Outrageous by Sheila Ortiz Taylor (Spinsters Ink)
Rose of No Man's Land by Michelle Tea (Macadam Cage)
The Night Watch by Sarah Waters (Riverhead Books)

Nominees for LESBIAN ROMANCE
Fresh Tracks by Georgia Beers (Bold Strokes)
Wild Abandon by Ronica Black (Bold Strokes)
Finders Keepers by Karin Kallmaker (Bella Books)
Chance by Grace Lennox (Bold Strokes)
Turn Back Time by Radclyffe (Bold Strokes)

Nominees for LESBIAN MYSTERY
Sleep of Reason by Rose Beecham, Rose (Bold Strokes)
Night Vision by Ellen Hart (St. Martins)
The Art of Detection by Laurie R. King (Bantam)
Idaho Code by Joan Opyr (Bywater Books)
The Weekend Visitor by Jessica Thomas (Bella Books)

Nominees for LESBIAN POETRY
Domain of Perfect Affection by Robin Becker (University of Pittsburgh)
Days of Good Looks by Cheryl Clarke (Carroll & Graf)
The Truant Lover by Juliet Patterson (Nightboat Books)
Lemon Hound by Sina Queyras (Coach House Books)
Touch to Affliction by Nathalie Stephens (Coach House Books)

Nominees for LESBIAN MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY
Intimate Politics by Bettina Aptheker (Seal Press)
Fun Home by Alison Bechdel (Houghton Mifflin)
Queen of the Oddballs by Hilary Carlip (HarperCollins)
Hit by a Farm by Catherine Friend (Carroll & Graf)
Incognito Street by Barbara Sjoholm (Seal Press)

Nominees for LESBIAN EROTICA
Walk Like a Man by Laurinda D. Brown (Q-Boro Books)
Glamour Girls edited by Rachel Kramer Bussel (Harrington Park Press)
18th & Castro by Karin Kallmaker (Bella Books)
Master Han's Daughter by Midori (Circlet Press)
Best Lesbian Erotica 2007 edited by Tristan Taromino & Emma Donoghue (Cleis Press)

Nominees for LESBIAN DEBUT FICTION
The Teahouse Fire by Ellis Avery (Riverhead)
Black Marks by Kirsten Dinnall Hoyte (Akashic)
Erzulie's Skirt by Ana-Maurine Lara (Redbone Press)
Slipstream by Leslie Larson (Crown)
Origami Striptease by Peggy Munson (Suspect Thoughts)

Nominees for GAY FICTION
Every Visible Thing by Lisa Carey (HarperCollins)
Izzy and Eve by Neal Drinnan (Green Candy Press)
Alternatives to Sex by Stephen McCauley (Simon & Schuster)
Now Is the Hour by Tom Spanbauer (Houghton Mifflin)
Suspension by Robert Westfield (HarperCollins)

Nominees for GAY ROMANCE
Someone Like You by Timothy James Beck (Kensington)
When the Stars Come Out by Rob Byrnes (Kensington)
Two Boys in Love by Lawrence Schimel (Seventh Window)
Surf 'N Turf by Scott & Scott (Romenticc)
Going Down in La-La Land by Andy Zeffer (Harrington Park Press)

Nominees for GAY MYSTERY
Mardi Gras Mambo by Greg Herren (Kensington)
The Hell You Say by Josh Lanyon (I-Universe)
The Back Passage by James Lear (Cleis Press)
Provincetown Follies, Bangkok Blues by Randall Peffer (Bleak House Books)
The Lucky Elephant Restaurant by Garry Ryan (NeWest Press)

Nominees for GAY POETRY
Gutted by Justin Chin (Manic D Press)
The Album That Changed My Life by Jeffrey Conway (Cold Calm Press)
A History of My Tattoo by Jim Elledge (Stonewall)
Other Fugitives & Other Strangers by Rigoberto Gonzalez (Tupelo Press)
When the Eye Forms by Dwaine Rieves (Tupelo)

Nominees for GAY MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY
Untold Stories by Alan Bennett (FSG)
The Bill From My Father by Bernard Cooper (Simon & Schuster)
Tweaked by Patrick Moore (Kensington)
History of Swimming by Kim Powers (Carroll & Graf)
My Father's Keeper by Jonathan Silin (Beacon)

Nominees for GAY EROTICA
Best Gay Erotica 2007 edited by Richard Labonte & Timothy J. Lambert (Cleis Press)
A History of Barbed Wire by Jeff Mann (Suspect Thoughts)
Hot On His Trail by Zavo (Alyson)

Nominees for GAY DEBUT FICTION
A Scarecrow's Bible by Martin Hyatt (Suspect Thoughts)
Send Me by Patrick Ryan (Dial Press)
The Zookeeper by Alex MacLennan (Alyson)
Suspension by Robert Westfield (HarperCollins)
5 Minutes & 42 Seconds by Timothy Williams (HarperCollins)

Information: asklambda@earthlink.net

20th Anniversary Concerts June 22 & 23

Harrisburg Men's Chorus Commissions "The Ultimate Show Tune"

Harrisburg Men's Chorus recently commissioned Eric Lane Barnes to work on "The Ultimate Show Tune." The commissioned work will be featured in their 20th Anniversary Concerts June 22 & 23, 8 pm at the Jay and Nancy Krevsky Production Center at Uptown Theater HBG, 6th and Hurlock Sts.

The popular choral group needs funds to pay for the commission.

HMC began singing Barnes's music a few years ago to great applause and bursts of laughter. Central VOICE talked to Barnes. "I've begun work on The Ultimate Show Tune. I'm having a blast. It's going to be a really fun piece," Barnes says.

Barnes began at piano lessons at age 6. "I thought it was the coolest thing in the world . I loved the fact that I was actually learning to create music with my fingers. Before too long I began writing songs, usually coming out of messing around on the piano. When I would practice at home I would intersperse things I was making up with things I was actually practicing.

After graduating from college, Barnes moved to Chicago and pretty quickly found himself in the musical theater and cabaret scene. "I started writing songs for cabaret groups and singers. I was hired by a theater company to write a score and songs for an adaptation for a Philip Jose Farmer book (Riders of the Purple Wage). When the show opened it got a lot of press, and all of them mentioned the songs. I was astonished: I was basically just messing around, but people apparently liked what I wrote.

From then on it was a matter of going from project to project, trying out new styles and songs. "In 1995, I took over direction of The Windy City Slickers for the Windy City Gay Chorus. I wrote lots of songs for them, and found a whole new audience in the GALA Chorus community.

In 2000 I was hired by Seattle Men's Chorus as assistant artistic director, where I formed Captain Smartypants, a homosexual vocal comedy group. I have written dozens of songs for them, and for SMC as well.

To date Barnes has written about 25 songs on commission for various choruses.

"Many more choruses across the country and in Canada, England, Germany, France and Australia have performed songs of mine."

Has AIDS affected Barnes songwriting? "This is a hard question to answer. I think during the first wave of the AIDS crisis in the 80s a lot of theater addressed issues that accompanied the plague. It was part of a unifying element that happened in the gay community as a response. A lot of it was good stuff. I think the crowning achievement of that era of gay theater was 'Angels in America.'

Barnes also thinks that there was "a lot of truly bad stuff " being thrown up onto the stage as well. "Once gay theater became not such a big deal, it seemed important to actually be able to 'say'something besides, Hello, I'm gay or even Hello, I'm HIV-positive.

Barnes decries the trend he saw. "A trend in gay theater began at that time: nudity. From Love-Valor-Compassion to shows like Party it seemed the thing to do was get onstage and take off your clothes and talk about your dick. Not that I'm a prude. I love a hot naked guy as much as the next homo, but it seemed that there was nothing of substance being presented.

"I hate to say it, but today when I go see a gay play or a gay movie I am more often than not disappointed, or sometimes actually angered by the terrible product I'm seeing. For instance: Another Gay Movie, Hellbent, Eating Out. These are actively bad movies. Why should this be? Doesn't the glbt community have more than its share of talented writers, directors and performers? I know this is not a PC thing to say, but I would really love to see a significant raising of the bar for lesbian/gay-themed movies and plays. There are, of course, exceptions. The Opposite of Sex, for one, and Longtime Companion for another. Both are excellent movies with substance."

Barnes and his partner Paul have been together for 15 years.

Tickets can be reserved at tickets@harrisburgmenschorus.org or by calling the theater at 232-5501. Info on Barnes: www.ericlanebarnes.co

Find These Bookstores while Traveling

It's not often that you get to announce a new LGBTQ bookstore, but today's the day: The Lavender Inkwell has opened in Syracuse, New York. Congratulations to owners John Besaw and Scott Henni, who will be hosting their first author event on Dec. 17, 2006, at 1 - 3 PM, for Audrey Briggs, a local lesbian author with her first book, Everybody Gotta Piece of Me. In January, the store will be starting four book clubs (a Men's, Women's, Family and Writer's).

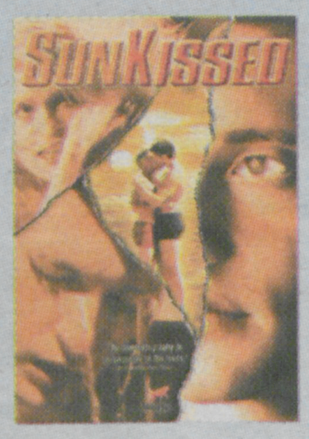
We've also added three wonderful bookstores to our list of LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly Bookstores: Outloud! in Nashville, TN, Left Bank Books in St. Louis, MO, and In Other Words in Portland, Oregon. Find links to these stores and over 50 others at Find a Bookstore on our website.

If your favorite bookstore isn't listed, email us at asklambda@earthlink.net and let us know!

It's also an exciting day to announce a new online literary journal, subterranean, launched by former Alyson editor Angela Brown. We're also pleased to add CHROMA, Britain's dazzling new queer literary journal, to our list of recommended LGBTQ journals at Find a Literary Journal on our website.

SUN KISSED – DVD

Get summer started early with Patrick McGuinn's sultry and surreal new drama starring John Ort and Gregory Marcel. Two young strangers fall in love in a lonesome desert, but the mysterious past and dangerous visions of one of the men might lead to the demise of the other. Teddy retreats to his professor's desert home to complete his first novel, and becomes instantly smitten by Leo, the handsome young caretaker. SK is flush with terrific bonus features. 1-800-642-5247 or sales@wolfevideo.com.



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Appreciating Cultural Diversity

Fair Trade Gems protocol preserves the integrity of the link to the place where the gem is found. As an international business, large parcels are traded at every step of the distribution system and linkage to the mine is usually lost in the shuffle. Diamonds, for example, are completely anonymous. Because gem collectors prize certain origins, like Kashmir for sapphires or Burma for rubies, laboratories offer origin reports: skilled gemologists examine microscopic clues to trace a gem's country of birth. Sometimes no such clues exist. Preserving the link to the producing country is important. The association between a beautiful gem adds glamour and appeal to a country's image. Supporting the country's culture, in a world of increasing global sameness, may become a valuable marketable asset for its people.

Transparency in the Supply Chain

To confirm all the gems sold and handled in accordance with Fair Trade Gems protocols, CGH maintains complete chain of custody documentation for every gem. All international transactions - transfers of goods and monies - are handled in a transparent manner and conducted in accordance with all local laws. CGH requests all shipments into the United States include official invoices, indicating real, accurate values. This prevents any possibility of money laundering. The U.S. Patriot Act now requires extensive documentation of import and export of gemstones.

Educating Consumers

CGH produces 15 different educational brochures about individual gemstone varieties, how they were cut and mined so consumers understand the gem's quality and value factors, where gems are from and how they were handled in the supply pipeline. Consumer education creates appreciation for the rarity of the earth's naturally occurring treasure and the difficult road it takes to reach you.

Your Dollars Speak

The Fair Trade Gems program is part of a larger movement among international companies. Seeking out Fair Trade Gems ensures your purchases make life better for the workers whose labor brings you those products. Fair Trade is committed to fair wages, cooperative workplaces, consumer education, environmental sustainability, respect for cultural identity, and public accountability. Coffee is on of the most widely available Fair Trade product, with over 100 roasters including Millstone Coffee, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds in Europe and many others, promoting ethical practices toward employees and the environment. Small changes in your shopping decisions make a big difference in people's lives. Information on Fair Trade Gems: Henderson Jewelers, Mechanicsburg, 717-766-7771.

RESOURCE: Retirement Homes for Gay Retirees

The term gay retirement conjures images that are more "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" than "Golden Girls." Slowly, gay-friendly retirement villages are opening up to serve a new market. In fact, there's a trade group just for gay retirees, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons, and at least eight gay and lesbian retirement communities already open or in development. Gay Baby Boomers have been working for nearly a decade to create retirement communities that will allow them to be out of the closet and proud as they age.

Validation helps. The Final Report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) explicitly includes GLBT elders in the report. The report recommends: "Expand the definition of minority populations to include—gays, lesbians, bisexuals transgender, and seniors with disabilities, and increase federal funding…to reduce health disparities and promote health promotion programming for all minority populations."

Although central Pennsylvania has no exclusively devoted glbt retirement villages (yet), for readers inclined to Go West after working, here's options in the San Fransisco Bay Area:

Gaycare, Daly City; www.gaycare.com

Gaycare is a residential care facility -- more of a retirement home than a retirement community -- designed for gay men. The facility can accommodate five residents and offers meals, laundry and housekeeping services, and transportation to and from doctor's appointments.

Gay Family Compound, Guerneville; www.geocities.com/ourplace116

Also called OurPlace, this compound of three cottages offers full-time live-in care, private redwood forests, yards for barbecues, gardens and parties. The staff provides meals, snacks, medication monitoring, transportation, laundry, housecleaning and shopping.

Openhouse, San Francisco; www.openhouse-sf.org

Eighty apartments are proposed for the former UC Berkeley Extension building at 55 Laguna St. This would be part of a larger mixed-use apartment complex that would include affordable units, open space and a community center. In addition to apartments for independent living, Openhouse is also working to create senior services for gay people living there as well as those who choose to age in their homes.

Fountaingrove Lodge, Santa Rosa; www.fountaingrovelodge.com

Set among acres of grassland and next to another senior living project, Fountaingrove Lodge will be built by Aegis, which plans 72 units in the main building, 18 flats, eight cottages and 36 beds in a health care facility. The project includes amenities such as a concierge, separate fitness centers for men and women, maid service, five restaurants, a country store, a computer and business center, a movie theater, a bank, a hair salon, a card room, a library and a wellness center.

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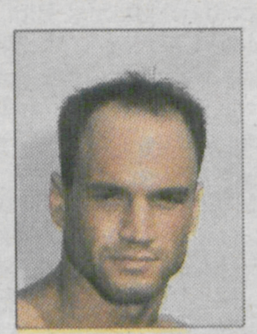

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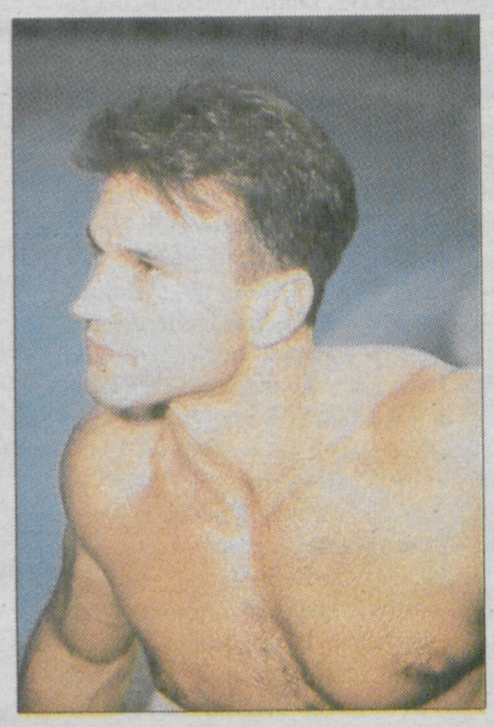

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The Gershwin Hotel Remembers Andy Warhol

On the Scene Story & Photographs

by Debra Miller

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Andy Warhol's death on February 22, New York's Gershwin Hotel, at 7 E. 27th Street in Manhattan, in conjunction with VH1, held a week of special events and tributes to honor the artist and his collaborators.

The events included the presentation of Superstar Awards, given to such Factory luminaries as Sally Kirkland, Ultra Violet, Mary Woronov, Taylor Mead, and Ivy Nicholson (all of whom appeared in the Warhol films), writer Bob Heide (who wrote screenplays for Andy), and the late Sterling Morrison, of the revolutionary Warhol-promoted rock band the Velvet Underground (whose widow Martha accepted his award); and book signings by writer Victor Bockris (*Warhol: The Biography*), Ultra Violet (*Famous for 15 Minutes: My Years with Andy Warhol*), Mary Woronov (*Swimming Underground: My Years in the Warhol Factory*), and Andy's nephew, artist and illustrator James Warhola (*Uncle Andy's: A faabbulous visit with Andy Warhol*).

The awards ceremony and book signings were followed later in the week by screenings of such legendary Warhol films as *Vinyl* and *The Chelsea Girls*, and a fashion show by the Warhol Factory X Levi's Collection, inspired by Andy's unique sense of style.

The culmination of the weeklong activities was the Silver Factory Ball, held on Friday night, February 23, which I attended with Andy's niece and silkscreen artist Madalen Warhola (wearing a Stephen Sprouse camouflage jacket) and Paul Matarese, manager of the Warhol Museum shop in Pittsburgh. Bison Grass Vodka appletinis were the drink of the night, and the bar was so well staffed that there were no lines—an unusual and welcome occurrence at such events.

Invited Guests Only

The lobby and back room of the Gershwin, open to invited guests only, were decorated in silver and hung with art by Andy, his associates from the Factory, and later followers inspired by his Pop Art. Film and video clips of Andy and his circle were projected on walls throughout, and a stage was set up in the back room, for a show emceed by famed performance artist Penny Arcade, an actress in Warhol's film and stage productions of the early '70s.

Entertainment included poetry readings by Taylor Mead and Ronnie Norpel (aka Ronnie Gerard, in vintage Rudi Gernreich), and live music by Eric Anderson and Blondie's Debbie Harry, who closed her set with *Heart of Glass* and "wished, as we all do, that Andy was here with us." As the show began, organizers Kevin Kushel (founder and owner of OvoWorks, a photographic image agency) and Norman Luxemburg (who left his position at the Gershwin on Saturday following the events), passed out Andy wigs and dark glasses to the crowd, which we all donned for the countless photographers documenting the night.

Absent for Good Reason

Conspicuously absent from the memorial were Andy's three most important assistants from the '60s to the '80s: Gerard Malanga, doing a poetry reading in Brussels with the city's mayor; Billy Name, who is limiting his travel due to health concerns; and Christopher Makos, who was out of the country. But it was great to see and to reminisce with Superstars Ultra Violet, Allen Midgette, Ivy Nicholson, and Taylor Mead, writers Bob Heide and John Gilman, Factory photographer Nat Finkelstein, artist Andres Serrano, and Penny, Ronnie, Debbie (all looking terrific!), and all the other friends and colleagues from the Warhol Circle.

Enya Buttox

A pleasant and unexpected surprise at the party was Earl Dax (formerly known in Philadelphia as the hilarious drag queen Enya Buttox), now living in New York, and promoter of the weekly "UniSEX Salon" at the downtown Delancey Lounge.

At the close of the party, upstairs in the VIP lounge overlooking the back room, Kevin gave me from off the wall a mounted print of Andy with his quote: "I think everybody should like everybody"—a sentiment that all the guests honored that night. Typical of the warm feelings of nostalgia and camaraderie was Ivy Nicholson's declaration that "Andy and I were soul mates. I'll always love him."

Max's Kansas City

The following afternoon, as Paul, Madalen, and I checked out of our complimentary suites at the Gershwin, Norman and Gershwin co-founder Urs Jakob presented us with parting gifts: commemorative tee-shirts from the event (with the logos of the Warhol '60s haunt Max's Kansas City on the front and the Gershwin on the back), and carpets from the Andy Warhol Home Collection by Oriental Weavers, featuring Andy-inspired designs of high heel shoes.

As Gershwin owner Suzanne Tremblay explained, "The Gershwin Hotel has the mandate to keep pop-culture art alive, filling every crevice of every floor with art. We therefore feel it is our obligation to . . . celebrate the life of Andy Warhol." Czech-born artist/performer Eva Nebeska, a guest at the party, who began her acquaintance and exhibitions with "the warholians" in 1987, agreed that Andy and his Superstars should be celebrated : ". . . they are American treasures, and they and their major contributions should be treasured and documented."

Thanks to Kevin, Norman, Urs, Suzanne, and all the guests for honoring Andy and for keeping his spirit alive.

Deb Miller Bio

Deb Miller, Ph.D., art historian, author, is former Director of Gallery 911 @ Revsin, 911 Arch Street, Philadelphia. Miller serves on the Board of Directors of Da Vinci Art Alliance in South Philadelphia. She maintains an active schedule of curating and jurying exhibitions there and at venues throughout the world. Miller has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Kress Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, including funding for two years of Post-Doctoral research in Venice, Italy. Her many publications include the fully illustrated catalogue, *Artists of the Warhol Circle Then and Now* (an exhibition she curated, which traveled the world for 7 years), and the first monograph on Factory photographer Billy Name (*Billy Name: Stills from the Warhol Films*). She covers the Philadelphia arts scene for the bi-monthly arts newspaper *Inferno* (Millville, NJ), and, in addition to her work in Art History and the Fine Arts, she serves on the fundraising committee for Lantern Theater Company in Philadelphia.

Debbie Harry Singing

Actor and artist Allen Midgette

Artist Andres Serrano

Writer Bob Heide

Performance artist and host Penny Arcade

Artists Hoop, Allen Midgette, and Madalen Warhola (Andy's Niece)

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S. Spruce St.	Annville	Woodberry Road	York
Poplar St.	Hanover	Coldstream Trail	Felton
High St.	Summerdale	Kent Drive	Mechanicsburg
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Cardinal Drive	Hanover	Naomi Avenue	Landisville
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Runningboard Road	Stewartstown	Denny Lane	York
N. Rose Garden Blvd.	Mechanicsburg	Silver Maple Court	Mt. Wolf
Hickory Lane	Denver	Halyard Way	Enola
Harvest Drive	Denver	Oak View Drive	Harrisburg
Saddleback Drive	Marietta	Eastern Blvd.	York
Rosewood Lane	Harrisburg	Furnace Hill RD	Stevens
Conewago Dr.	East Berlin	Tunnel Hill Road	Seven Valleys
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Don Rene Rd.	Mt. Wolf	Red Maple Court	New Cumberland
Running Board Rd.	Stewartstown	Anna May St.	York
Steinman Farm Rd	Pequea	Sarsen Drive	Lititz
Lewisberry Rd.	New Cumberland	Erford Rd.	Camp Hill
Cranes gap road	Carlisle	Accent Circle	Camp Hill
Newport Road	Manheim	Chevy Chase Drive	Harrisburg
Cocklin Street	Mechanicsburg	Susquehannock Dr.	Holtwood
N. Pleasant Ave.	Dallastown	Raven Crest	Pequea
Brookside Ave.	Weigelstown	Bill Drive	Denver
East Coover Street	Mechanicsburg	Brandton Road	Mechanicsburg
Pennshire Drive	Lancaster	E. Jackson St.	New Holland
Clair Mar Drive	Dover	Jug Road	York
Valley Green Rd	Etters	Sunset Dr.	Harrisburg
Miller Road	Littlestown	N. Front St.	Harrisburg
Harrogate Road	Lancaster	Winding Hill Drive	Etters
Grove Road	Red Lion	4th Ave	Oberlin Gardens
Green Valley Road	York	Alfred Drive	Lewisberry
Zion Rd.	Carlisle	Mountain View Road	Mt. Holly Springs
Oberlin Road	Harrisburg	Green Park Drive	Mt. Joy
Maple Hill Road	Etters	New Bridgeville Road	Red Lion
Whitetail Drive	Lewisberry	Hartford Rd	York
Farmstead Way	York	S. College St.	Carlisle
Thorngate Ct.	Millersville	Steeplechase Road	Landisville
Cottage Pl	Red Lion	Bell Road	Christiana
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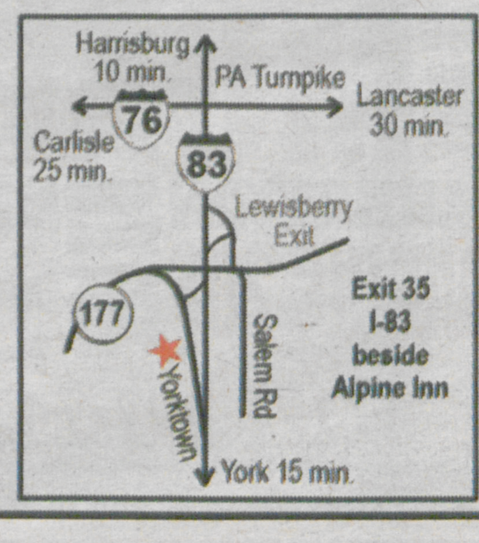

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—*New York Magazine*

Millie Dillmount arrives in Manhattan with no intention of ever returning to her small town roots. Armed with little more than pluck, moxie and a boatload of ambition, this thoroughly modern gal is dedicated to experiencing everything the roaring 20s have to offer. You'll laugh and cry right along with Millie as she navigates the ups and downs of work, romance and mystery to the accompaniment of marvelous song and dance. Based on the popular movie, the stage version of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* features fifteen rollicking songs that truly capture all the bubbly thrills of the Jazz Age. Don't miss this feel-good musical that's just as sweet, funny and entirely up-to-date as Millie herself.

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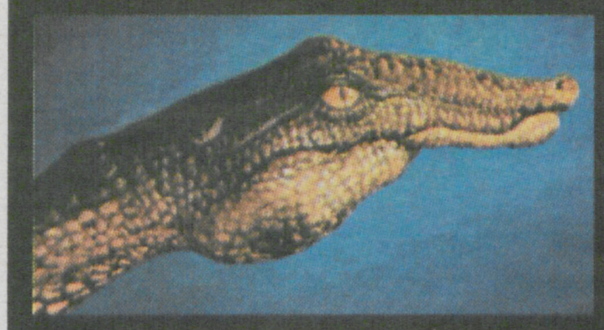
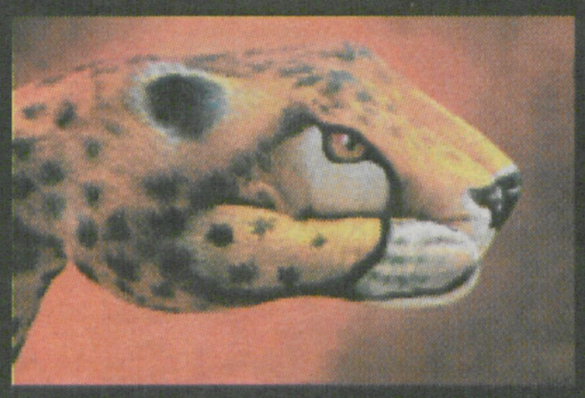
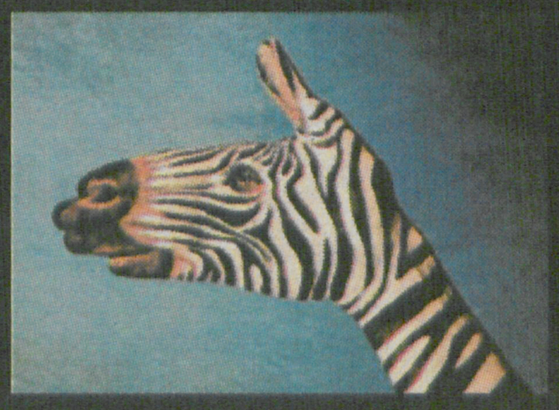
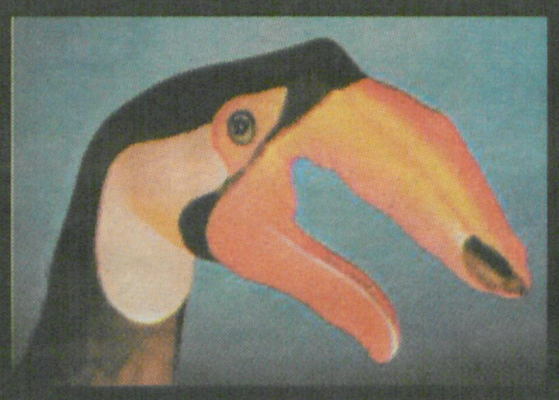
Animal Art on the Body?









When Italian artist Guido Daniele was hired by an advertising agency to create body painting of animals, he loved the idea. "I researched each animal in depth to see how I could transfer it to a hand, and then set about bringing it to life." The hardest part of his job is watching his creations disappear down the drain after they're photographed. "I'm getting used to it," Daniele shrugs. "At least I get to start each day with a fresh canvas." Guido Daniele lives and works in Milan.

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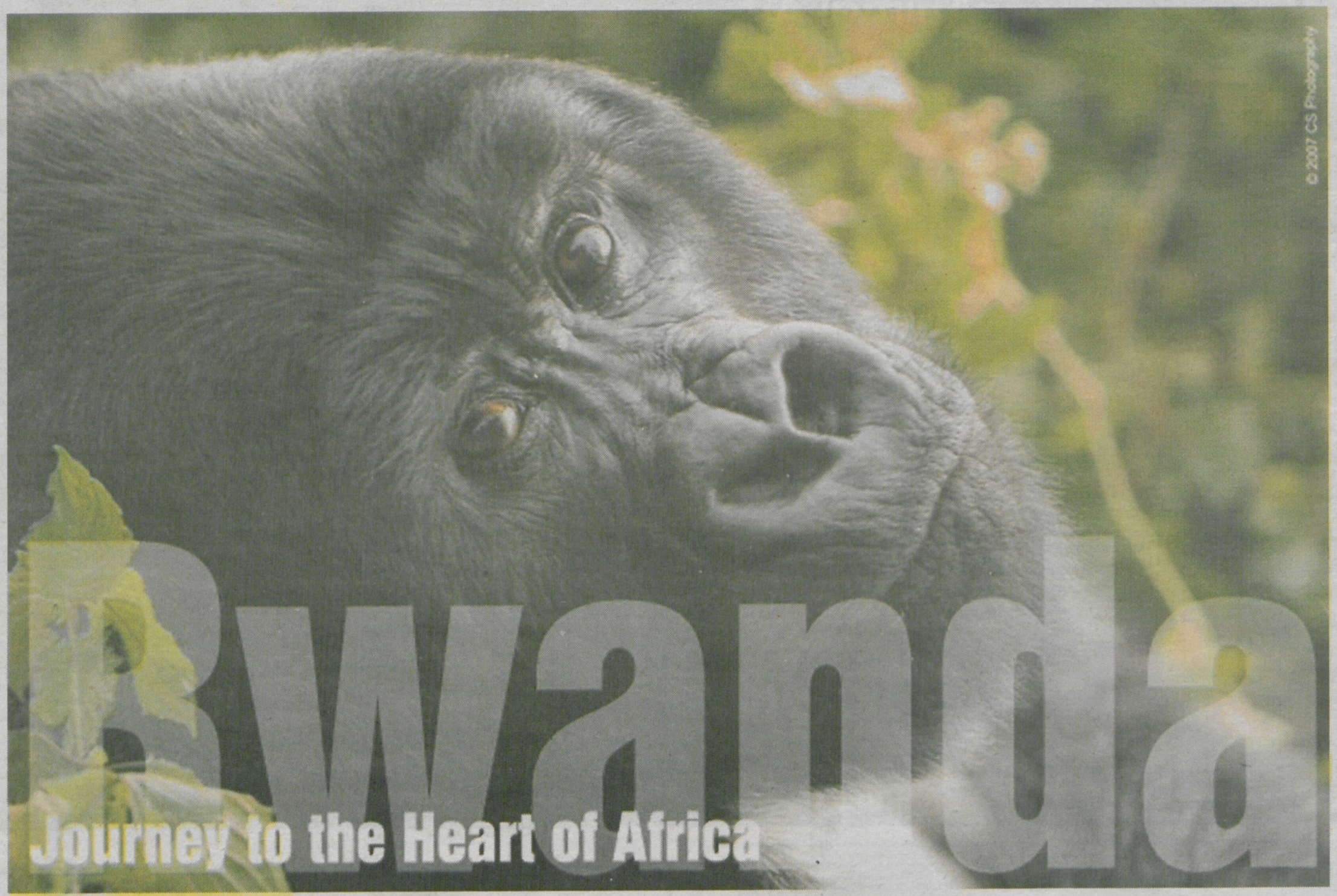


Charlie Smith, CS Photography Studio, 717-580-6493, is a well-known photographer creating images that celebrate diversity, environmental preservation and protected and endangered animals. Recently Smith ventured off for 10 days to Africa to photograph very rare mountain gorillas. Below is an account of his travels.

In the words of Charlie Smith: For the second time in the past five years, I had the opportunity journey to Africa to photograph the mountain gorillas.

The first leg of my journey took me to Rwanda, in central east Africa, where I trekked into the Virunga Mountains to find the very rare mountain gorillas. I flew into Kigali and spent the night at Hotel Des Milles Collines, famous for hosting numerous meetings with Diane Fossey as she began her quest to save the gorillas from extinction.

I have two impressions of Rwanda outside of the gorilla experiences. The first is the density of the population coupled with the lack of motor vehicles. Everywhere I went over the course of 10 days, I traveled paved and dirt roads lined with people walking or riding bicycles getting to and from market. Based on people per square mile, Rwanda is the most populous African country with about 2 million inhabitants.

Rwanda is also a very agricultural country with all of the crops tended and transported by hand. Women work the fields. Some of the men help but many are usually unemployed and spend the day at the "tavern" by the local market drinking cheap sorghum-based beer.

Children are everywhere. It seems that since human muscle is the energy source for getting work done, it's within a family's interest to have lots of kids. Since a genocidal conflict over 10 years ago wiped out about 10% of the country's population, there are many orphans. But my impressions were not negative. I spent all of my time in the mountainous countryside and the people all seemed friendly and happy.

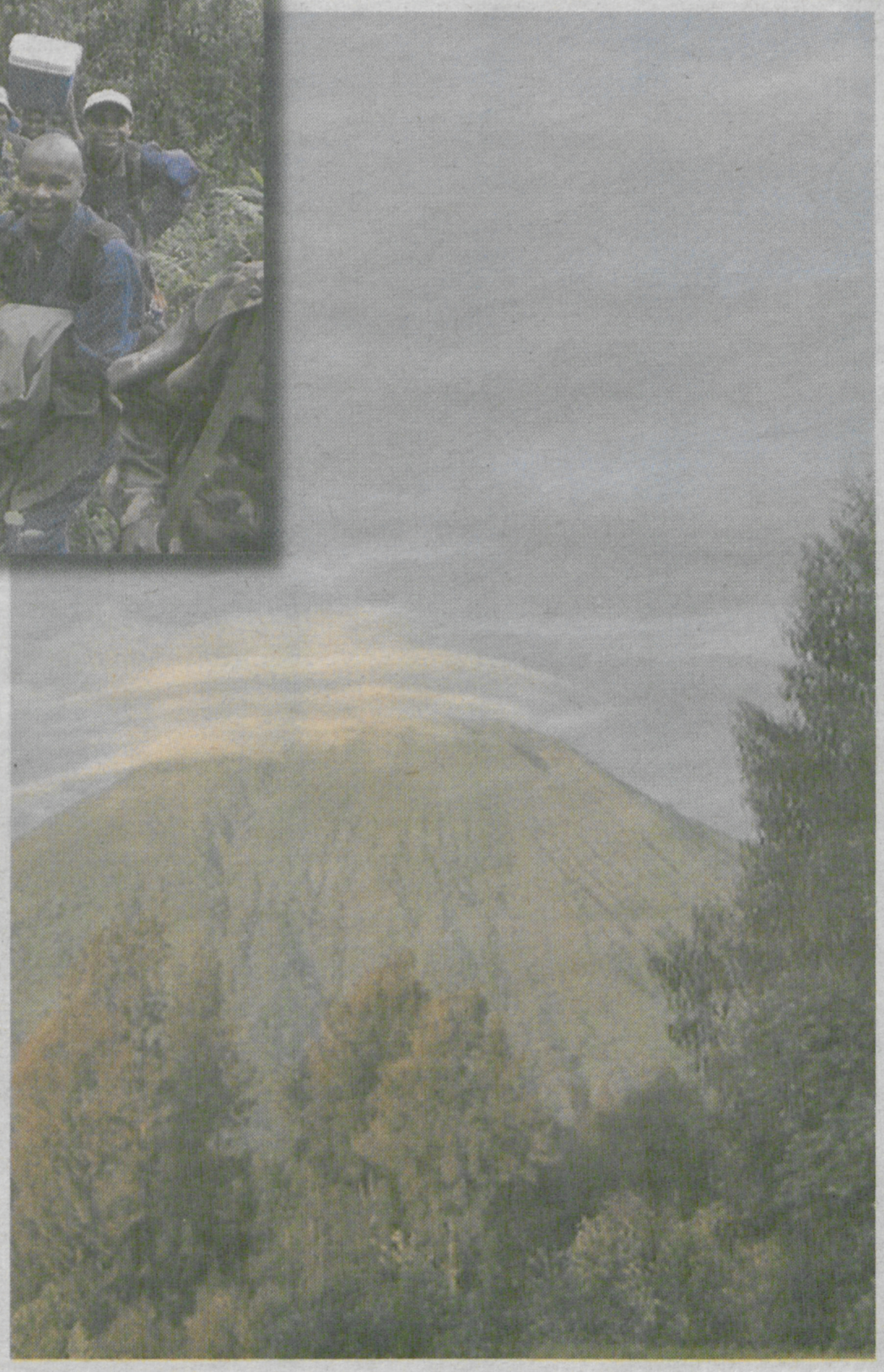
Women wear very colorful clothing and can be seen along the paths carrying incredible loads balanced on the top of their heads. Male clothing is nondescript with a lot of old US tee shirts visible. Bare feet is the norm.

The second overall image is of the landscape. Rwanda is a mountainous country with the mountains having being formed by volcanoes. The soil is a rich reddish brown color and the mountainsides and valleys looked like a patchwork quilt of fields because of the different crops grown. Most everywhere one turns is a beautiful vistas.

But, the rare mountain gorillas were the focal point of the trip. There are fewer than 700 gorillas left and none in captivity. Through the years of Rwanda war and the 1994 genocide, I'm amazed that the gorillas survived. Fortunately, the people of Rwanda, Uganda and, to some extent, the Congo have realized the importance of protecting and preserving this small group of gorillas. The efforts of Diane Fossey and others have developed what appears to be a very strong conservation approach using tourist dollars to fund the effort.

The first experience of being with the gorillas is the physical exertion necessary to get to their location. They inhabit a relatively small geographic area between 9,000-12,000 feet above sea level in the Virunga chain of volcanic peaks. You drive to a park entrance and meet a guide to begin the trek. We had passes for five days and went to different places each day.

When we checked into the camp office to present our passes, we were assigned one of five gorilla families to visit. Each morning, trackers had gone out early to locate the families so our guides knew roughly where we would be going. Each day's movement was different and strenuous.



Most everywhere you turned was a beautiful vista.

Tracking mountain gorilla through the misty forests requires patience and stamina. You're often walking for hours in the mud and wet grounds. Finally meeting them in the undergrowth is an inspiring moment. Quietly chewing away at their vegetarian delicacies, they seem like a marooned human family. The tender grooming and firm disciplining of their offspring seems all too familiar. The gorilla family casts a wary glance at the sudden human intrusion into their private world, but they are comforted by the clucking made by the trackers. When provoked, the noisy but harmless silverback gorilla grunts, screeches, bares his fangs and beats his chest, before slithering off with attendant females, offspring and other mature males. A silverback gorilla gains his color after about 12 years of age, when he reaches sexually maturity.

One day, we hiked up the Bisoke Volcano which tooks us about 2.5 hours. Two guides and seven porters carried our packs stuffed with cameras, water and lunch. The terrain is very rugged with no established trails to speak of. After I reached the right height, the guides who are in contact with four trackers by radio located the gorilla family. They found 12 animals across a small valley and up on a hillside. Off we go, down into the valley and up the hillside. I remember most the rainforest to be most dense at this location and that we carefully walked on vines which were slippery.

When we reached our location, guides and trackers moved us around for the best view of the family without disturbing them. Trying to maintain a stable position from which to shoot photos seemed like as much effort as hiking to the place. But it was worth the effort as we spent an hour with the entire family. I photographed the family leader, known as a silverback, from a number of angles. One of my favorite shots is of his face appearing to stick his tongue out at me. The young ones are very playful and one of them went rolling by and brushed up against me on route to a sweet bamboo stalk. Lucky for me, I must not have looked very tasty, but it was quite exhilarating. After one hour we had to leave in observance of strict rules about viewing and human contact. Gorillas are very susceptible to human diseases and we were careful to not pass on germs.

The hike back was also very strenuous but we were going down all the way so it was easier. I was so pumped up with excitement I found it heartbreaking to leave. Along the way we stopped for lunch and then headed back down. At the bottom of the trek we walked through farm fields where children played, and waved, and asked for money.

I was impressed by the quality of the guides and a real sense of a bond they have with the gorillas. They were knowledgeable and compassionate about the animals and their environment and had both spent several years with the gorillas. There is an emphasis on conservation and a visible awareness of the uniqueness of the resource from the Rwandan government. Gorilla tourism produces the second largest source of foreign exchange for Rwanda. Their approach works extremely well in that they know gorillas are an important part of their future and that they have a responsibility to protect their world heritage.

Undeniably the most unique primate that survives in the forgotten forests of Africa is the gorilla, both the mountain gorilla and the lowland gorilla. The survival of these last remaining mountain gorillas should be one of humanity's greatest priorities.

"In contrast to the six billion human beings living on our crowded planet, there are only some seven hundred Mountain Gorillas left on the borders of Uganda, Rwanda and Congo."

Humane Society Goes "Barking Mad" for Books

The Humane Society of Harrisburg Area (HSHA) is raising funds by selling books through its new "BookBark" program.

HSHA is collecting used and new books of all genres at its shelters and community events for the program, which has raised approximately $300 so far. The BookBark program is spearheaded by HSHA board member Randi Teplitz, who lists the books on Amazon.com. Buyers from around the country can then purchase the books with proceeds going to HSHA.

"We've had a really positive response to the program so far," said Teplitz. "Buyers from all over the country have been very excited to know they are supporting a great cause with their book purchase."

Books for sale through the BookBark program can be found under the Amazon Marketplace seller name "bookbark."

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Fax: (717) 564-1867

West Shore Shelter
710 Eppley Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 697-8547
Fax: (717) 697-8764
www.humanesocietyhbg.org

The official registration and financial information of the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The Humane Society of Harrisburg Area, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has been providing care for homeless animals, as well as education for the community, since 1911. The organization is an open-admission shelter and receives no funding from government or other animal welfare groups and must rely on private donations and fundraising activities to support its mission. Each year, the shelter takes in between 7,400 and 10,000 animals.

For more information, contact Kelly Hitz at 717.564.3320 extension 110 or at kellyh@humanesocietyhbg.org.

Choosing Quality Food for Your Pet

By Kristen Zellner

You may not have considered exactly what your pet is eating or even looked at the back of the package when you are choosing a food. It is tempting to purchase a food based on what you see on the package or in an advertisement. Photos of fresh cut meats, vegetables and whole grains are attractive to consumers. This is how manufacturers lure you. Why would you question the ingredients when there are colorful pictures on the front of the bag? When you flip the package over, don't be surprised to see ingredients that are not included in those pretty pictures or vice-versa. Just because there is a picture of the whole, juicy chicken on the front doesn't mean that it is in the food. You may think that you are getting that nice plump bird, but instead you are getting by-products. If the company put a photo of guts, feet, intestines, and eyeballs on the front of the bag, you probably wouldn't buy it. They are smart and you must be, too.

If a food is high quality, the first ingredient should consist of a specific, identifiable meat (chicken, beef, lamb, etc.). Never purchase a product that lists any kind of by-product in the ingredients. They are the leftovers that remain after all of the parts fit for human consumption are removed. By-products have very little nutritional value and most commercial pet food manufacturers use them because they are inexpensive.

Dogs and cats are carnivores and they need to derive most of their nutrients from meat protein. For that reason, a diet lower in carbohydrates and higher in meat protein is recommended for your carnivorous pet. Unfortunately, commercial pet foods include very high quantities of carbohydrates (grains and grain fragments) because they are cheap and filling. If you choose a food that uses grains, make sure the food contains whole, high quality grains such as rice, brown rice or barley. Potato and sweet potato are also fine. Stay away from corn, wheat, soy and grain fragments because they have very little nutritional value and many animals are allergic to them.

Many chemicals are also added to commercial pet foods to improve the taste, stability, or appearance of the food. Additives provide no nutritional value and can also cause allergies. Choose a food that is labeled "naturally preserved" and doesn't include artificial colors or flavors.

Price is another indicator of quality. For example, if you pay $9.99 for a 40lb bag of food, you are most likely purchasing a very low quality food, unless you hit a great sale. You would be surprised at how many healthy, natural types of pet food are available that most people never hear about. The smaller companies that manufacture these foods refuse to sacrifice quality for profit. They spend money on ingredients, not advertising. You will pay more for these foods, but you are paying for real food, not fillers.

To learn more about quality pet foods go to www.naturalpetfood.com, www.dogfoodproject.com, or www.healthypetproducts.com. You should also visit your local independently owned feed store. There are several out there. Small business personnel are often very knowledgeable about the products they carry and willing to take time out to find the food that suits the needs of your pet.

Your pets rely on you to do the best for them. Aside from training, attention, and exercise they need a healthy, balanced diet to live a happier, healthier life.

Kristen Zellner works for Abrams and Weakley General Store for Animals in Harrisburg. She can be reached at klzell@aol.com.

Phoenix Rescue Group Seeks Volunteers

The Phoenix Rescue Group (TPRG) is a 501(c)(3) charitable, animal rescue organization which focuses on rescuing animals from urgent situations. Assisting these animals includes paying for their veterinary expenses, which are mounting on a daily basis, and can quickly become astronomical.

One such dog is "Holly" who we managed to trap just before Christmas. She was living under a shed and being fed by an elderly couple who knew she needed more help than they could give her. Holly came with a host of medical problems and would have died if left out in the elements without treatment. Her hospital bill alone was over $1,000.00 and her continuing medications are about $150.00 per month. Holly is recovering and is searching for her forever home.

TPRG is seeking volunteers to organize fundraisers, such as sub sales, to help pay the medical expenses for dogs like Holly. To volunteer, please contact Ron Hollister at the above phone number, or Michele Moyer by email at mmoyer61@comcast.net Monetary donations can also be sent to The Phoenix Rescue Group, P. O. Box 833, Carlisle PA 17013 or through PayPal on our website: www.thephoenixrescuegroup.org

Citizens Bank Promotes Patrick Cristino

Citizens Bank Foundation

Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania recently promoted Patrick Cristino to Regional Manager for Lancaster and York counties. His responsibilities include overseeing the bank's Lancaster/York retail region and managing 13 branch managers as well as 85 employees.

Cristino has worked for Citizens Bank since October 2003, serving in Management Training and as a manager at the Eastern branch.

"We are delighted that Patrick is going to manage the Lancaster and York counties," said Ralph J. Papa, President of Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. "His experience will be extremely beneficial to our colleagues and customers in our Capitol Region."

Cristino graduated from Millersville University with a degree in business administration. He is an assistant coach of the women's basketball team at Franklin & Marshall and has been a career opportunity volunteer teacher at Eastern High School since 2004. He resides in East York with his family.

Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania is a $36 billion state-chartered bank with dual headquarters in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

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Frequently Asked Questions

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Unclaimed property is defined as financial assets that have remained unclaimed by the owner for approximately five years.

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HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

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Type your last name in the "Last Name" field and press the Tab key.

Type your first name in the "First Name" field.

Click the "Search" button.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call 1-800-222-2046 and a customer service representative will assist you.

IF I FIND MY NAME ON THE DATABASE, WHAT IS REQUIRED TO FILE A CLAIM?
The documentation required to complete a claim varies, depending on who is claiming the property (the owner or a legal representative of the owner) and the type of property being claimed. In all cases, claimants are required to sign a claim form. It is important to follow the instructions on the claim form to determine the additional documentation that is required.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PROPERTY THAT IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLAIMED?
Property owners never lose their ownership rights. The Commonwealth serves as custodian, holding assets indefinitely until the owners or their heirs make a rightful claim. Upon approving a claim, the Commonwealth will turn over either the property itself or, if the property has been sold, the proceeds of the sale. By law, securities, such as stocks, are sold immediately upon receipt. Tangible property, such as jewelry, received by Treasury may be sold through the department's eBay auction if the property owners cannot be found after two years.

HOW CAN I PREVENT MY PROPERTY FROM BECOMING UNCLAIMED?
Keep bank accounts active. Make an annual deposit or withdrawal and be sure to notify the bank of a change of address. These steps are considered owner activity and will prevent your assets from becoming unclaimed.

To search by telephone call 1-800-222-2046 Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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THEATRE ROUNDUP

STRAND-Capitol Special Return Engagement!

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Monday, May 7, 2007 - 7:30pm

The FULL production in all its excitement, humor and spectacle returns to the Strand Theatre stage for this exclusive end-of-season engagement.

If you were here for the March 12 performance, you should receive a letter outlining your options. Otherwise, tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online or by calling the Strand-Capitol box office.

Caledonia Theatre Company Offers Summer Camp

Caledonia Theatre Company is pleased to announce their 2007 Summer Theatre Camp to be presented at the Totem Pole Playhouse this summer. This years Theatre Camp is designed for children between the ages of 8 and 15.

"Totem Pole Playhouse Summer Theatre Camp" will be held June 18-29 at the Totem Pole Playhouse. The day camp will run Monday thru Friday for two weeks, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

Spend a magical two weeks in the beautiful Caledonia woods and at the Totem Pole Playhouse. The play for this year's camp will be "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". The campers will rehearse the play and design and build the set and costumes. The play will be performed for family and friends on the final day of the camp. Creative drama games will also be incorporated into the 2-week camp. The camp is ideal for both the beginning and experienced child actors.

In addition to the camp, the students will also be treated to a backstage tour, have the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the theatre professionals and attend a professional play at the theatre.

Jenny Kreyl Shoeman will again direct this year's camp. Jenny is the Director of Drama at the Renaissance Academy in Philadelphia and a native of Franklin County.

No prior theatrical experience is necessary to enroll in the camp. Due to limited enrollment, early registration is encouraged. For more information on the camp, or to receive a camp brochure, please phone the theatre box office at 717-352-2164 or email a request to boxoffice@totempoleplayhouse.org.

Scholarships are available on a limited basis for the camp.

8th Annual WomenSpeak Festival at Open Stage of Harrisburg

Three of Open Stage's most popular shows are returning in a showing of our women's greatest hits.

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Those singing church ladies with their fabulous hats
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Written and Performed by
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Directed by Jayne Wenger

Sara Felder returns with her story of a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding!

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Curtain: 8 P. M.
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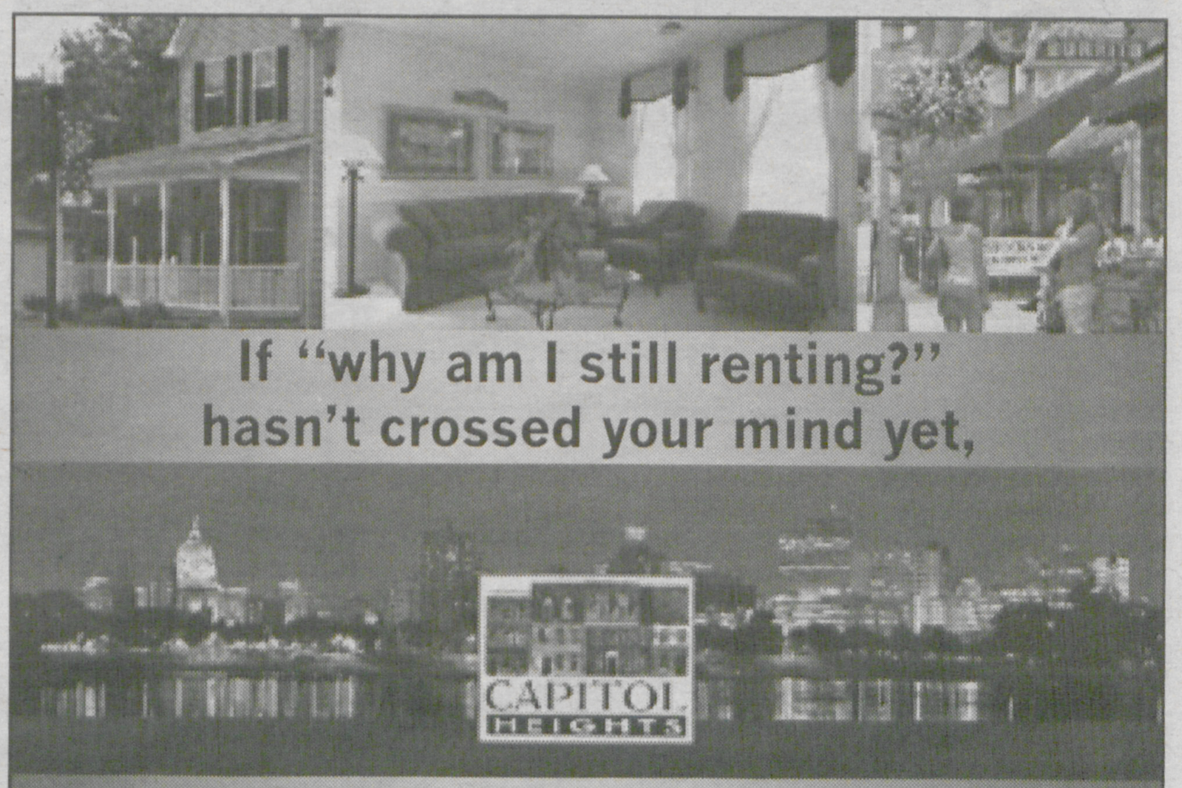
Open Stage of Harrisburg presents ***THE FANTASTICKS***, April 20-May 13. Cast: **Richard D. Johnson** as The Boy's Father, ***Keith Brant*** as The Boy, **Dorea Schmidt** as The Girl, and **Brian Schreffler** as The Girl's Father.



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Harrisburg Symphony Announces 2007-08 Season

New Subscriber Offer – 50-percent Discount on Full Masterworks Series

The Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Stuart Malina, announces their 2007-08 concert schedule. The season features seven Masterworks concerts and three Capital BlueCross Pops shows, as well as other special events including the annual "Stuart and Friends" concert and a Beatles-themed show presented by the Harrisburg Symphony Society.

Both the Masterworks and Capital BlueCross Pops series offer subscription packages. The Pops series offers a Full Season subscription and the Masterworks series has four packages including Full Season, Mini-4, Mini-3, and Snowbird subscriptions.

As always, subscribers receive guaranteed reserved seats with the purchase of a Full Season subscription to either the Masterworks or Capital BlueCross Pops series. Subscribers receive a greater value per ticket over single ticket prices. Subscribers may also exchange tickets to a different performance date if they cannot attend their scheduled concert.

Additionally, subscribers may return unused subscription tickets to receive a tax credit if they cannot attend a concert. Tickets must be returned to the Harrisburg Symphony office at least one week prior to the concert.

New for the upcoming season, the HSO is offering a new discount program called "Get Hooked on the Classics!" The program features a 50-percent discount off the regular subscription rate for a Full Season subscription to the Masterworks series.

This offer is open to anyone who has never subscribed to the Masterworks Full Season package before, so even current Mini-4, Mini-3, and Snowbird subscribers can take advantage of this offer to become a Full Subscriber. This offer is good for any seating area. There are seven seating areas to fit every budget.

The 50-percent discount is in addition to the already discounted price of a Masterworks Full Season package over single ticket prices. New subscribers who take advantage of the offer will renew at regular price for the following season.

Individuals interested in subscribing should call the Harrisburg Symphony office at (717) 545-5527.

MASTERWORKS

Oct. 6, 7 – "Heroes of the Old World"
- •Wagner – Overture to "Tannhäuser"
- •Dvorak – "Violin Concerto" featuring guest artist Karen Gomyo on violin
- •Tchaikovsky – Symphony No. 2 "Little Russian"

Nov. 17, 18 – "Songs of Saints & Sinners"
- •Rossini – Overture to "La Gazza Ladra" (The Thieving Magpie)
- •Hindemith – "Mathis der Maler"
- •Brahms – "Piano Concerto No. 1" featuring guest artist Andrew Armstrong on piano

Jan. 12, 13 – "Catch a Rising Star"
- •Sibelius - "The Swan of Tuonela"
- •Bartok – "Concerto for Orchestra"
- •Chopin – "Piano Concerto No. 1" featuring guest artist Konrad Binienda, Piano Grand Prize Champion of the Rising Stars Concerto Competition

Feb. 16, 17 – "Strings of Diamonds"
- •Diamond - "Rounds for String Orchestra"
- •Mozart - "Violin Concerto No. 5" featuring guest artist Augustin Hadelich, Gold Medalist of the Indianapolis International Violin Competition
- •Mendelssohn - Symphony No. 3 "Scottish"

March 8, 9 – "It's All about Rhythm"
- •Rimsky-Korsakov – "Capriccio Espagnol"
- •Higdon – "Percussion Concerto" featuring guest artist Chris Rose, Percussion
- •Walton – "Partita for Orchestra"
- •Ravel – "La Valse"

April 5, 6 – "Voices of Peace & Joy"
- •Vaughan Williams – "Dona Nobis Pacem"
- •Beethoven – "Symphony No. 9"
- •The concert features guest vocal soloists Janice Chandler-Eteme, Soprano; Krista River, Mezzo-Soprano; Dinyar Vania, Tenor; Raymond Diaz, Baritone; as well as the Susquehanna Chorale, the Alumni Chorale of Lebanon Valley College, Messiah College Concert Choir, and the Messiah College Choral Arts Society.

May 10, 11 – "Spring Eternal"
- •Copland – "Appalachian Spring"
- •Strauss – "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks"
- • Stravinsky – "The Rite of Spring"

CAPITAL BLUECROSS POPS

Nov. 3, 4 – "Swashbucklers and Gunslingers"

The Harrisburg Symphony takes on iconic heroes and villains of the silver screen in this action-packed Pops concert. From pirates to cowboys, Maestro Malina will have his baton at the ready for this showdown of classic action film scores.

Jan. 26, 27 – "An Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein Classics"

Musical fans will enjoy a delightful evening of memorable Rodgers and Hammerstein songs from "Carousel," "The King and I," "South Pacific," "The Sound of Music," and "Oklahoma." The featured soloists will be Melissa Errico, Gary Mauer, and William Michals.

April 26, 27 – "Stay Tuned, a Five By Design Production"

Revisit memorable shows and commercials of the Golden Age of Television presented in the style of classic TV variety shows. Performed by the Five by Design quintet with the Harrisburg Symphony, this show will delight television audiences of all ages. More details can be found about "Stay Tuned" at FiveByDesign.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sept. 23 – Autumn Rhapsody

Mark your calendars now for this Symphony fundraiser featuring the swinging sounds of "Stuart Malina and his Big Band" in the Chocolate Ballroom at the Hershey Lodge. Autumn Rhapsody will have great food, fun dancing and the best big band music.

Dec. 2 – Holiday Spectacular

Let the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra raise your spirits at the annual Holiday Spectacular featuring top local young musicians and high school choirs under the direction of Dr. Ronald Schafer. This holiday concert will be held at the Forum at 3 p.m. with general admission tickets.

Dec. 15, 16 – "The Nutcracker" (Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet)

Make this magical ballet part of your holiday season tradition. The Harrisburg Symphony will provide the live music, based on Tchaikovsky's immortal score, for the CPYB dancers at the Hershey Theatre.

March 11 – "Stuart and Friends"

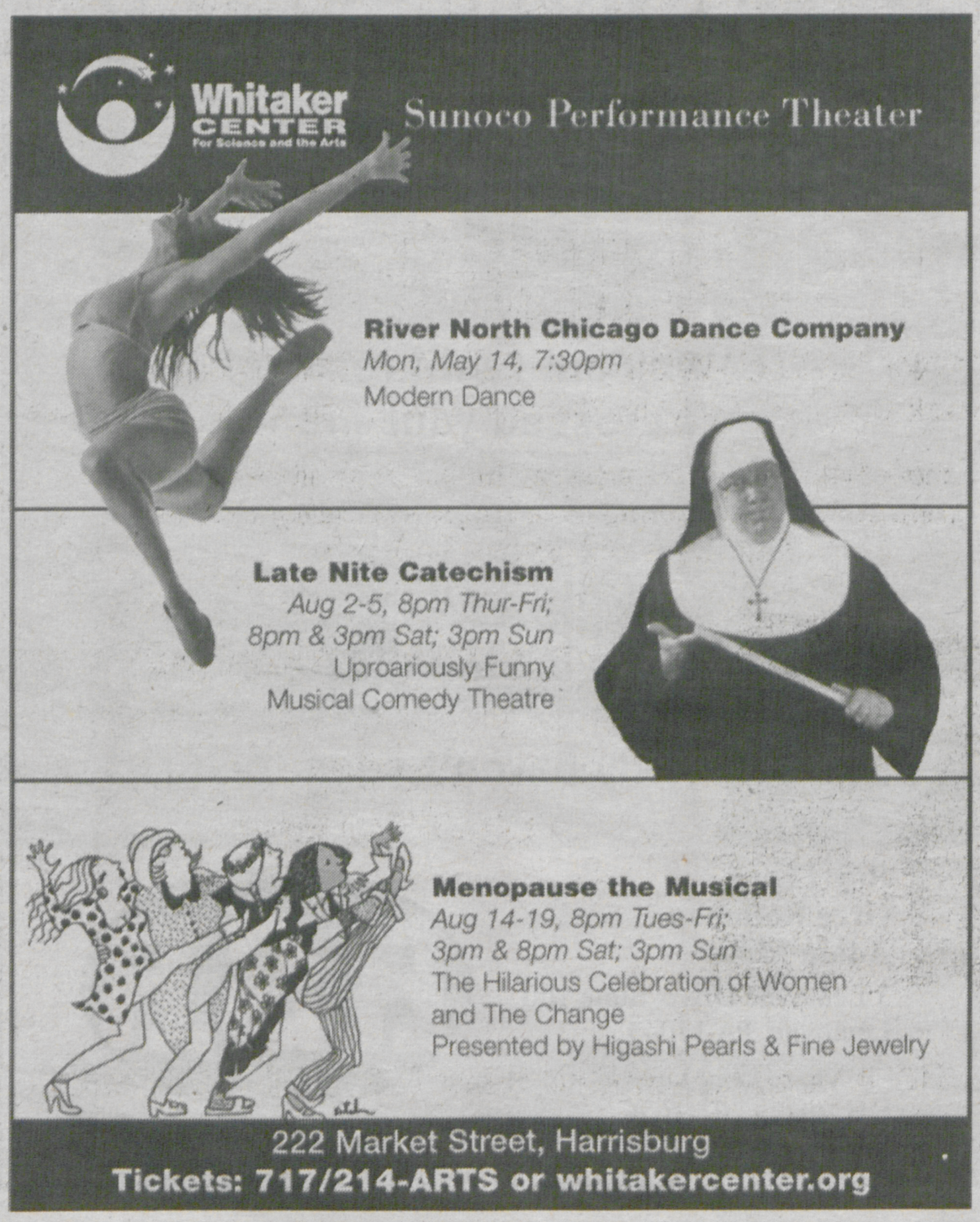
This intimate concert with Maestro Malina and his musical friends has become an annual favorite among local music lovers. Always a great show in the Sunoco Performance Theatre at the Whitaker Center.

May 17 – "Classical Mystery Tour"

The Harrisburg Symphony Society presents this special fundraiser concert featuring a Beatles tribute band backed up by the Harrisburg Symphony. For more information about the band, check out ClassicalMysteryTour.com.

GENERAL CONCERT INFORMATION

All performances at the Forum at 5th and Walnut streets in downtown Harrisburg. Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday performances at 3 p.m. Each Masterworks series concert features a pre-concert lecture that begins one hour prior to performance.



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CINEMA CENTER

Lucky You

Starring: Eric Bana, Drew Barrymore, Debra Messing
Directed By: Curtis Hanson – Rated: PG-13

Date of Release: May 4th 2007

Huck Cheever is the kind of poker player most people would give all their chips to be. But, in his personal life Huck is a completely different man. Huck is a master at avoiding commitments, overly emotional women and long term relationships. Things change when Huck sets his sights on winning the World Series of Poker in 2003. He learns that maybe he needs to change his outlook on life and quit playing cards with women.

Spiderman 2

Starring: Toby Maguire, Kirsten Dunst
Directed By: Sam Raimi

Date of Release: May 4th 2007

Just when Peter Parker thinks he can handle being a superhero and loving MJ things take a turn for the worse. The infamous spidey suit turns jet black and gets new and better super powers. But, the suit brings out a bad side of Peter, the jealous, over-confident, angry side that causes trouble in Peters super life and his normal life. That's not the only problem Spiderman's dealing with in this movie though, Sandman and Venom, two evil villains, are plotting to take care of the hero once and for all.

Shrek the Third

Starring the Voices of: Mike Myers, Eddie Murphey, Cameron Diaz
Directed By: Raman Hui, Chris Miller – Rated: PG

Date of Release: May 18th 2007

So, everyone knows that when you marry a princess it automatically makes you the king-to-be right? Obviously, this is not something Shrek thought of when he and his lovely wife Fiona tied the knot. But, now as Fiona's father falls ill, Shrek is forced to find another person suitable to be the kind of Far, Far Away. And it just so happens that the next rightful heir is just as rebellious as Shrek himself. So, Shrek, Donkey, and Puss in Boots spend a majority of the movie attempting to turn Fiona's cousin Artie, into the ruler that he is.

Knocked Up

Starring: Seth Rogen, Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann
Directed By: Judd Apatow – Rated: R

Date of Release: June 1st 2007

Everything seems to be going great for the young and beautiful entertainment journalist Allison Scott. That is, until one night she gets terribly drunk and has a one night stand with a man whose whole life has been about how much work he can not do, Ben Stone. Both Allison and Ben thought the relationship was over until Allison finds out that she's pregnant. Naturally she doesn't want to raise a child on her own so Allison picks up the phone and gives Ben some news that changes his life. Now, the two are forced to get to know each other and who knows, maybe things will work out for the better.

Ocean's Thirteen

Starring: George Clooney, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt
Directed By: Steven Soderbergh – Rated: PG-13

Date of Release: June 8th 2007

Everyone remembers the quirky team of bandits put together by Danny Ocean. So far they have conquered two high paying heists. But two's not enough for the crew. In this second sequel, Danny and his pals team up with their old arch nemesis Terry Benedict to pull off their most ambitious job yet.

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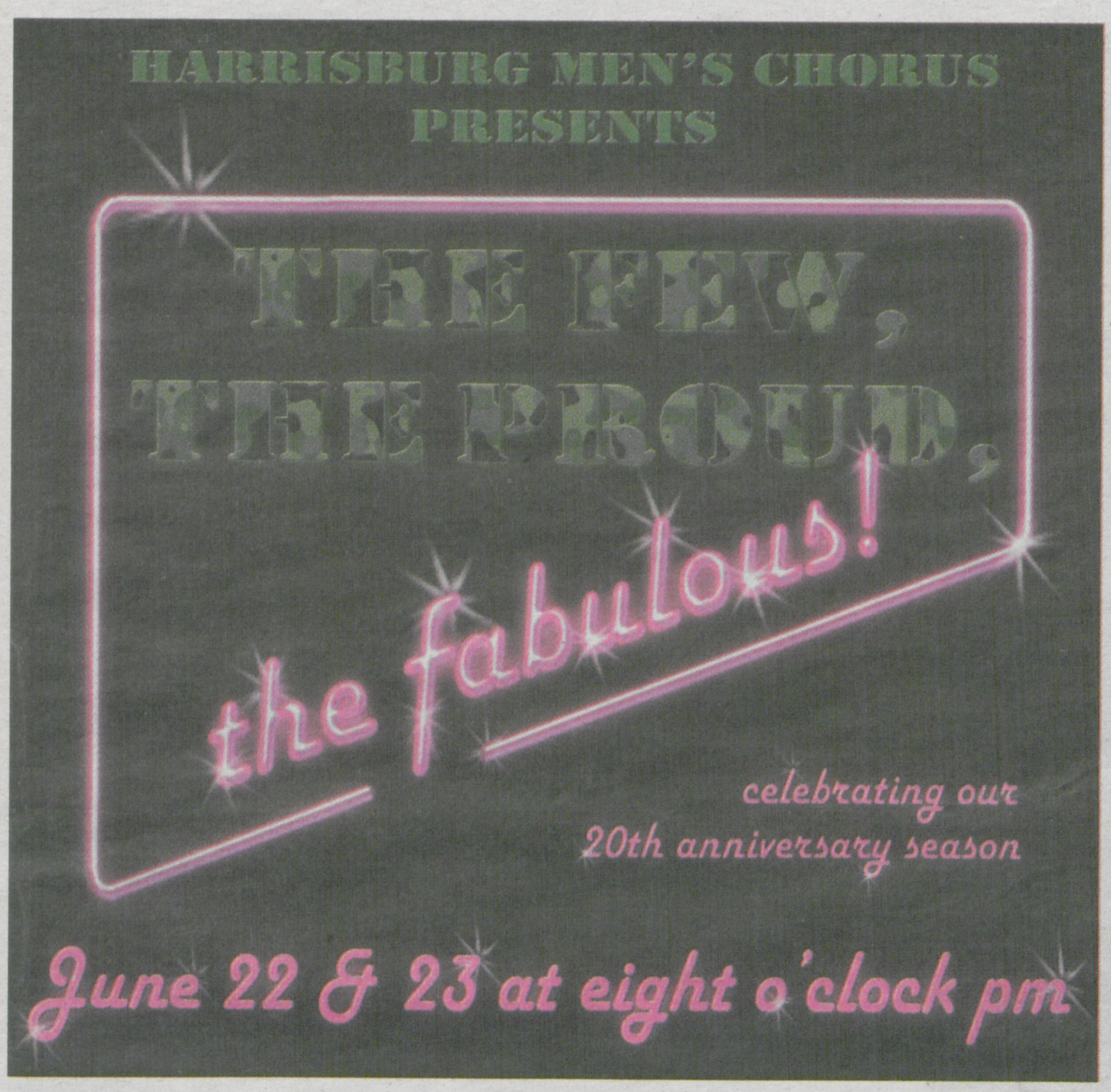

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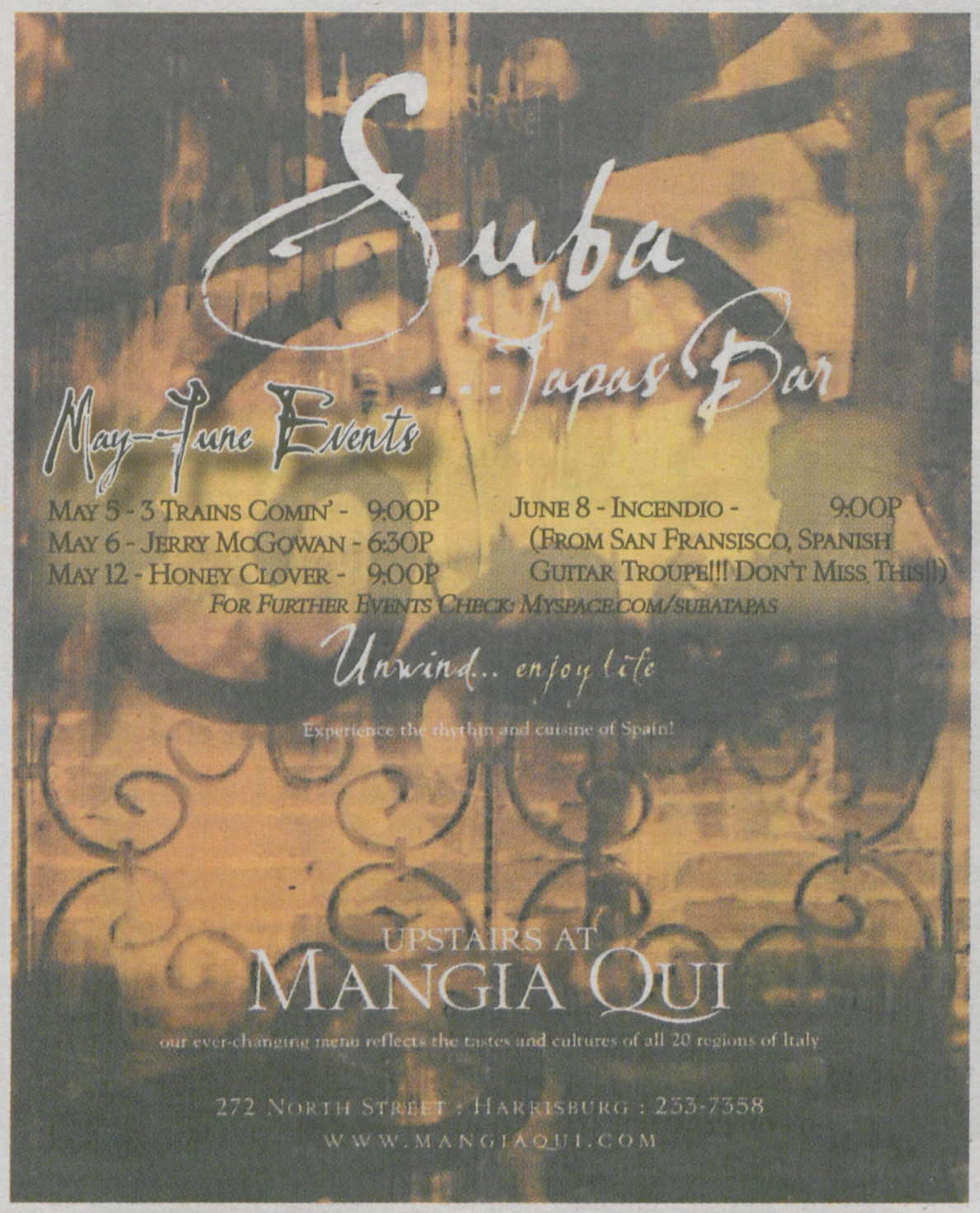
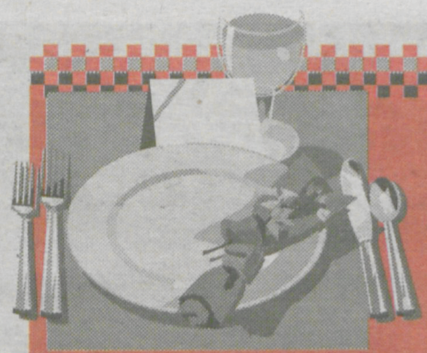




FOOD

Summer Food & Beverage Ideas

Toss potato and pasta salads with red, green or yellow peppers. Throw in some cherry tomatoes, zucchini or yellow squash for a rainbow of colour.

Brighten up a chicken or turkey salad by adding big chunks of peaches or apricots; enjoy a burst of flavour in every bite.

Greens go great with papaya or mango strips; top with an herb vinaigrette or fruit flavoured yogurt dressing.

Tuck favourite sandwich fillings into Italian focaccia bread; layer with strips of cheese and tomato slices, sprinkle with fresh herbs and drizzle with balsamic vinegar and olive oil.

Fueling with Fluids

Don't forget the fluids. Children especially are prone to fluid loss when playing in the sun. While ice water is your best bet, the following ideas may beat the heat and add some fun.

In a blender, puree chunks of peaches, pears or nectarines, along with a tablespoon of lemon juice. Pour into ice cube containers and freeze until firm. Serve as ice cubes in chilled water or as a popsicle treat.

Spice up regular lemonade by adding cranberry or raspberry juice. Dilute sweet drinks well with water as sweet drinks may increase thirst.

Mix up a fruit spritzer by adding soda water to 100% fruit juices. Try freezing it until just slushy and eat with a spoon.

Chicken: Grilled or Smoked to Perfection

Chicken is one of the most versatile meats you can put on the grill or in the smoker. Easy to cook and capable of taking on almost any flavor, it also has the added attraction of being low fat and able to take most any seasoning.

When it comes to grilling most people either grill skinless breasts or parts. The problems people have are the breasts drying out or the parts catching fire. To keep skinless chicken from getting too dry try a marinade with a little light oil or a thick, fruity glaze. This will trap in the moisture. To reduce flare-ups when cooking parts with skin, first trim off excess fat and second, keep the temperature lower.

When people talk about barbecue chicken they are typically talking about grilled chicken with a good thick sauce. You can make great chicken easily with a hot grill and any sauce you prefer.

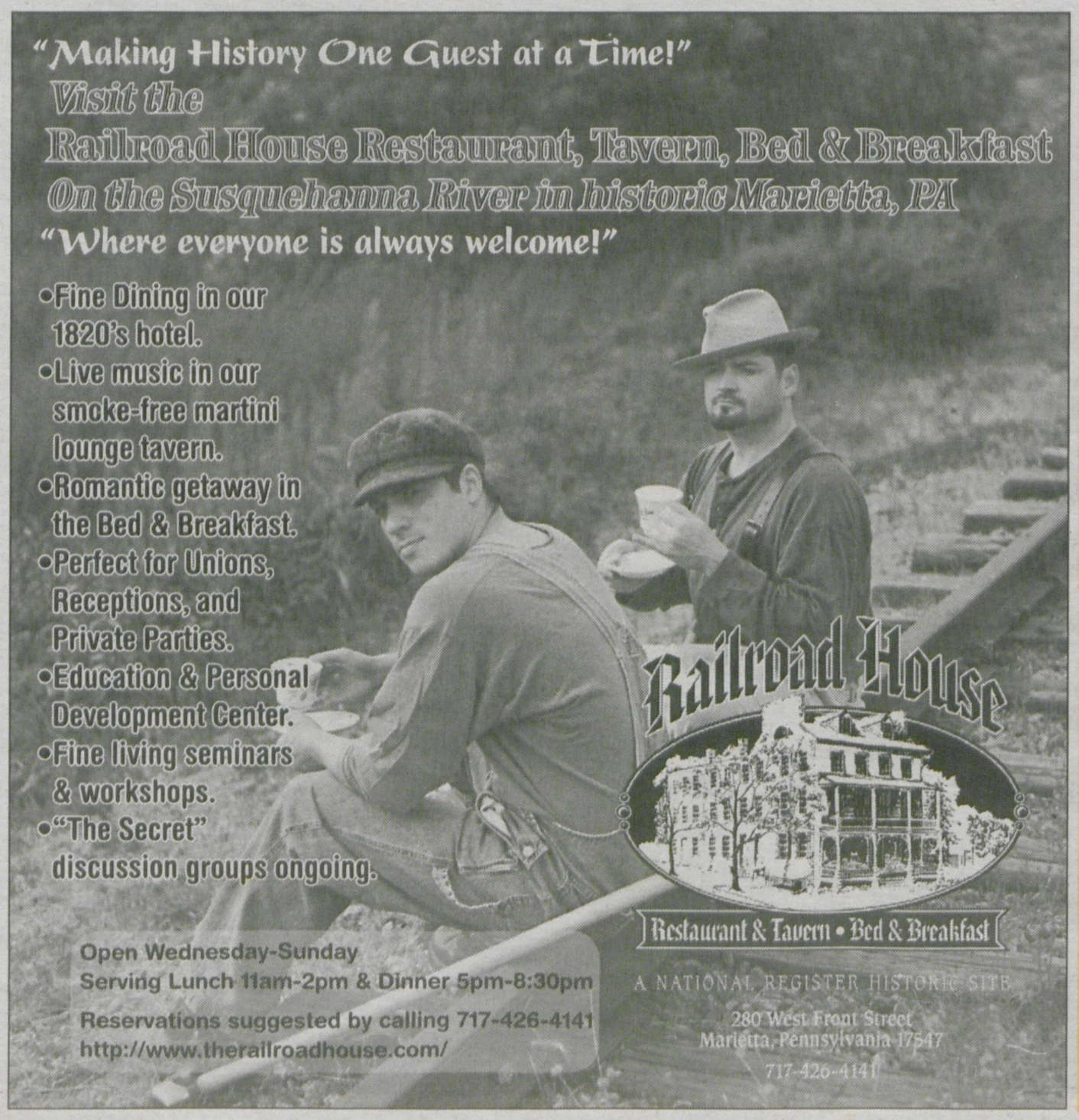
Online TV Guide

Want to watch your favorite hit series online?

NETWORK/WEB SITE	SOME SERIES OFFERED
•ABC Dynamic.abc.go.com/streaming/landing	8 series, including "Brothers and sisters", "Desperate housewives", Grey's Anatomy", and Betty", "Lost"
•CBS www.cbs.com/innertube	13 series, including CSI: Crime Scene Investigation", How I Met Your mother", Survivor", "Jericho"
•FOX www.myspace.com/fox	8 series, including "American Dad", Bones", Prison Break", Standoff"
•NBC www.nbc.com/Video/rewind	6 series, including "30 Rock", "Heroes", Identity", Las Vegas"

Google Classic TV Shows

Google's YouTube.com now offers classic TV show episodes. "I Spy" and "Gumby" is among the 4,000 hours of content YT has agreed to post. The deal is the first allowing online free access to full-length commercial TV shows.



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  Caring Together is an HIV collaboration of Well Span, OPEN, and Family First Health.
- **Doors open at 6pm, Entertainment starts at 9:30pm.**

Weekly Events:

Saturday	Sizzling Saturdays with Resident DJ Jazzy Joyce. $5.00 cover. Happy Hour from 8-10pm. Long Islands just $5.00 all night.
Sunday	T-Dance 5-9pm (Ladies, Country, Bears - check website for more info.) Happy Hour from 5-7pm. Free cover, free food, free pool! Karaoke with Todd from 10pm to 1am.
Monday	Martini & Manicure Monday. All martinis are half-price. Professional Manicures just $7! Pool Tournament with $50 cash/prizes for first place, $25 second.
Tuesday	Movie Night with Brianna featuring the latest theatrical releases. Free popcorn and drink specials! Happy Hour from 8-10pm.
Wednesday	Lounge opens at 4pm. Happy Hour from 8 to 10pm. Karaoke with Carmel starts at 10pm.
Thursday	College Night with DJ Jazzy Joyce. 18+ to party, 21+ to drink. Happy Hour from 8-10pm, drink specials all night.
Friday	DJ Stephen Durkin, Retro with DJ Jason Royce, Drag Shows - check website for more info.

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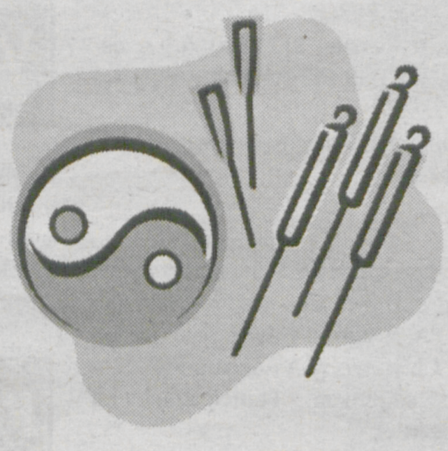

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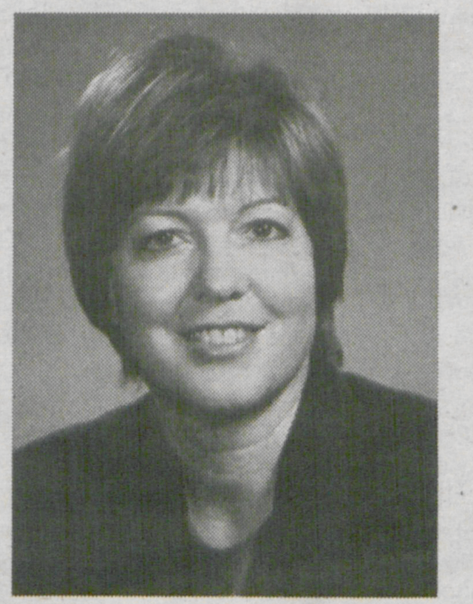

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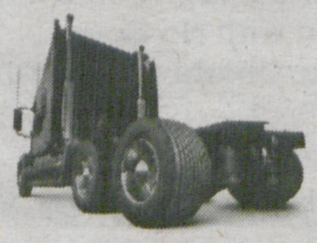

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Study Says Epidemic of Homelessness Among GLBT Youth

20 percent to 40 percent of homeless youth in US identify as glbt - a startlingly disproportionate rate relative to the general population. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that the number of homeless and runaway youth ranges from 575,000 to 1.6 million per year. And, according to the National Runaway Switchboard in conjunction with other study sources, up to 42 percent identify as glbt — putting glbt youth homelessness at a startlingly disproportionate rate relative to the general population.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in collaboration with the National Coalition for the Homeless, will release a new report titled Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth: An epidemic of homelessness, which reveals the causes and consequences of this crisis. The report also makes significant public policy recommendations and challenges public officials and social service providers nationwide to fully meet the needs of these vulnerable young people.

The mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is to build the political power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community from the ground up.

PA Democratic Party Appoints Leaders to Committee

T. J. Rooney, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, has appointed two leaders of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Beth Shupp-George and Renee Gilinger, to serve on the party's Affirmative Action Committee.

The Committee, which is representative of Pennsylvania's Congressional districts, will prepare an Affirmative Action plan for the 2008 Democratic National Convention delegate selection process. The plan will then be subject to a 30-day public review period and ultimately submitted to the Democratic National Committee.

Beth Shupp-George is Chairwoman of the Franklin County Democratic Committee. During the 2006 election cycle, she served as Voter Protection Coordinator for the PA Victory '06, the Pennsylvania Democratic Party's successful coordinated campaign. Beth is a member of Capital Region Stonewall Democrats and on the steering committee of Liberty PA. She is also a member of Democratic State Committee, where she is currently working to organize an LGBT Caucus. Beth and her partner, Kristi, live in Chambersburg

Based in Philadelphia, Renee Gilinger serves as Chair of Liberty PA, the largest LGBT Democratic organization in Pennsylvania. She spent 18 months during the 2006 cycle traveling across the Commonwealth, working with activists from Erie to Milford. Renee served as a delegate to the 2004 convention, recently completed a 4-year term on the board of National Stonewall Democrats, serves on the board of Liberty City Democratic Club and is a member of Democratic State Committee.

Shupp-George and Gilinger applaud the Pennsylvania Democratic Party for its continued support of the LGBT community. They look forward to being a strong voice for the community on the Affirmative Action Committee.

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